

**7-202. Contracting guideline for upgrade of distance learning services.**

(1) Purpose. The purpose of this guideline is to make the contracted services portion of distance learning contracts more flexible for the end-user and the provider and better able to accommodate future technology applications.

(2) Objective. The objective of this guideline is to permit users to access all the bandwidth on the negotiated circuit. It will allow providers to continue service and to expand networks as required by updating the systems they use to NEBS (Network Equipment Building System) standard compatible equipment. It will allow interoperability between users among multiple consortia. It will permit new telecommunications services on the DS-3 connections in use and permit increased speeds on current services such as access to the internet.

(3) Guidelines. Entities that receive state funding for telecommunications and public entities that are approaching contract expiration for existing distance learning services are advised to make every attempt to take advantage of the efforts to aggregate services and contracts. As new contracts are contemplated for distance learning, it is recommended that discussions minimally include consideration of the following:

(a) Contracting Options. (1) Negotiate one contract for connective terminal hardware and transport as long as the end-user has full access to and flexible use of all bandwidth on the network and has the ability to upgrade video encoding equipment as desired, or (2) negotiate two contracts at the local level; one contract for procurement (including maintenance) of connective terminal hardware (CODEC) and a second contract for transport (preferably the use of Network Nebraska).

(b) Contract Expiration Dates. To the extent possible, the local entity should make transport contract expiration dates co-terminus with the Network Nebraska core transport contracts (contact the Office of the CIO for more information).

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**History:** Adopted on November 13, 2003. Amended on July 12, 2018.

**URL:** <http://nitc.nebraska.gov/standards/7-202.pdf>