



## Laurel-Concord Public Schools - District 54

502 Wakefield Street - P.O. Box 8 - Laurel, Nebraska - 68745-0008

Central Office: (402) 256-3133 - Community Learning Center (402) 256-3431

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Dr. Daniel J. Hoelsing, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Leslie Owen, Secondary Principal  
Mrs. Stephanie Petersen, Elementary Principal  
Mr. Scott Petersen, Athletic Director

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OFFICE OF THE CIO

April 1, 2008

Brenda Decker  
Chief Information Officer  
501 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Brenda and Technical Panel Members

I am writing to request your consideration of special circumstances that justify noncompliance with Scheduling Standard for Synchronous Distance Learning and Videoconferencing 1-103, issued by the NITC. I believe special circumstances exist because the polycom cart systems, used in my districts, exceeded the capabilities of the Renovo software. At the start of this school year the Renovo software could NOT control the single codec, internal MCU devices utilized by the cart system. As a result, we were in violation of the standard requirement for all agencies offering "eligible" distance education courses to schedule through the statewide scheduling system.

The special circumstances exist We currently offer 57 distance education courses each day to over 890 students in 9 school districts in northeast Nebraska. In addition to our 4 upgraded classrooms, we utilize 17 polycom cart systems to send and receive synchronous courses. After the purchasing the cart systems, we were informed that the statewide scheduling system could not schedule courses delivered via the cart system. In addition, we were informed that the scheduling system was not capable of scheduling multi-point sessions delivered over single polycom systems to the other five school districts receiving courses from us each day.

Our commitment to purchasing this equipment, in excess of \$170,000, was dependent on our ability to recover some of our investment through the incentive program provided for in LB 1208. In purchasing this equipment, we were careful to follow the purchasing guidelines provided to us to make sure we remained eligible for this reimbursement. We believe the inability of the scheduling system to schedule our cart-to-cart, cart-to-DL Room and multi-point sessions was beyond our control and should qualify for consideration of suspension or waiver of Technical Standard 1-103.

### Agencies Requesting the Waiver

Laurel-Concord Public Schools  
Newcastle Public Schools

Coleridge Community Schools  
Wynot Public Schools

### Contact Information

Dr. Daniel J. Hoelsing  
Laurel-Concord Public Schools  
502 Wakefield St. P.O. Box 8  
Laurel, NE 68745

Thank you for consideration of our waiver request as outlined in 3.1 of the technical panel's exemption provision and I would be more than willing to provide additional information and/or represent these school districts in person at your next technical panel meeting.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Daniel J. Hoelsing