

# **U.S. Department of Education**

Washington, D.C. 20202-5335



## **APPLICATION FOR GRANTS UNDER THE**

**STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM RECOVERY ACT GRANTS  
CFDA # 84.384A  
PR/Award # R384A100017**

Closing Date: DEC 04, 2009

# **\*\*Table of Contents\*\***

## **Forms**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)           | e1  |
| 2. Standard Budget Sheet (ED 524)                        | e5  |
| 3. SF 424B - Assurances Non-Construction Programs        | e7  |
| 4. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities                     | e9  |
| 5. ED 80-0013 Certification                              | e10 |
| 6. Dept of Education Supplemental Information for SF-424 | e11 |

## **Narratives**

|   |      |
|---|------|
| 1. Project Narrative - (Project Narrative - Project Abstract...)              | e12  |
| Nebraska Abstract   | e13  |
| 2. Project Narrative - (Project Narrative - Project Narrative...)             | e14  |
| Nebraska Project Narrative  | e15  |
| 3. Project Narrative - (Project Narrative - Appendix A, Optional Attach.....) | e45  |
| Nebraska Appendix A Optional Attachments                                      | e46  |
| 4. Project Narrative - (Project Narrative - Appendix B Resumes of Key P.....) | e55  |
| Nebraska Appendix B Resumes   | e56  |
| 5. Project Narrative - (Project Narrative - Appendix C Current Status o.....) | e65  |
| Nebraska Appendix C Current Status  | e66  |
| 6. Project Narrative - (Project Narrative - Appendix D Letters of Support...) | e70  |
| Nebraska Appendix D Letters of Support  | e71  |
| 7. Budget Narrative - (Budget Narrative - Budget Justification...)            | e89  |
| Nebraska Budget Narrative   | e90  |
| 8. Budget Narrative - (Budget Narrative - ED 524 Section C Spreadsheet...)    | e105 |
| Nebraska ED 524 Section C   | e106 |

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**Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**

Version 02

|  |   |                   |
|--|---|-------------------|
| * 1. Type of Submission                                | * 2. Type of Application:* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New                               |                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application        | <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation                                 | * Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Revision                                     |                   |

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| * 3. Date Received: | 4. Applicant Identifier:    |
| 12/3/2009           | SLDS 2009 Grant Application |

|                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5a. Federal Entity Identifier: | * 5b. Federal Award Identifier: |
|                                | NA                              |

**State Use Only:**

|                            |                                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6. Date Received by State: | 7. State Application Identifier: |
|                            |                                  |

**8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

\* a. Legal Name: Nebraska Department of Education

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| * b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): | * c. Organizational DUNS: |
| 470491233   | 808819882                 |

**d. Address:**

|                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| * Street1:           | 301 Centennial Mall South |
| Street2:             | 6th Floor                 |
| * City:              | Lincoln                   |
| County:              | Lancaster                 |
| State:               | NE                        |
| Province:            |                           |
| * Country:           | USA                       |
| * Zip / Postal Code: | 68509                     |

**e. Organizational Unit:**

|                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Department Name:                 | Division Name: |
| Nebraska Department of Education | Data Services  |

**f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:**

|              |     |               |        |
|--------------|-----|---------------|--------|
| Prefix:      | Mr. | * First Name: | Robert |
| Middle Name: | M   |               |        |

\* Last Name: Beecham

Suffix:

Title: Senior Administrator

Organizational Affiliation:

\* Telephone Number: (402)471-4740 Fax Number: (402)471-0774

\* Email: BOB.BEECHAM@NEBRASKA.GOV

**Application for Federal Assistance SF-424** Version 02

**9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

A: State Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

A: State Government

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

A: State Government

\* Other (specify):

State Education Agency

**10. Name of Federal Agency:**

U.S. Department of Education

**11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:**

84.384A

CFDA Title:

Statewide Longitudinal Data System Recovery Act Grants

**\* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

ED-GRANTS-072909-001

Title:

Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems CFDA 84.384

**13. Competition Identification Number:**

84.384

Title:

Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems under the American Recovery and

**14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):**

State of Nebraska, public school districts and public postsecondary institutions.

**\* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

Nebraska Statewide Longitudinal Data System

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

**Attachment:**

Title :

File :

**Attachment:**

Title :

File :

**Attachment:**

Title :

File :

**Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**

Version 02

**16. Congressional Districts Of:**

\* a. Applicant: NE-ALL

\* b. Program/Project: 84.384

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

**Attachment:**

Title :

File :

**17. Proposed Project:**

\* a. Start Date: 7/1/2010

\* b. End Date: 6/30/2013

**18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| a. Federal           | \$ 7435245 |
| b. Applicant         | \$         |
| c. State             | \$ 1482722 |
| d. Local             | \$         |
| e. Other             | \$         |
| f. Program<br>Income | \$         |
| g. TOTAL             | \$ 8917967 |

**\* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .

- b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.  
 c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

**\* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes", provide explanation.)**

Yes  No

**21. \*By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications\*\* and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances\*\* and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

\*\* I AGREE

\*\* The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

**Authorized Representative:**

Prefix: Mr. \* First Name: Robert

Middle Name: M

\* Last Name: Beecham

Suffix:

Title: Senior Administrator

\* Telephone Number: (402)471-4740 Fax Number: (402)471-0774

\* Email: BOB.BEECHAM@NEBRASKA.GOV

\* Signature of Authorized Representative:

\* Date Signed:

**Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**

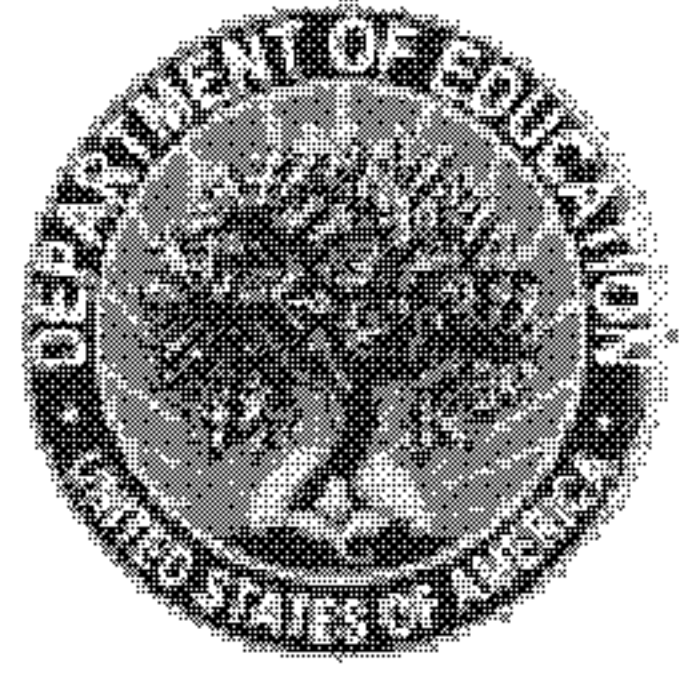
Version 02

**\* Applicant Federal Debt Delinquency Explanation**

The following field should contain an explanation if the Applicant organization is delinquent on any Federal Debt. Maximum number of characters that can be entered is 4,000. Try and avoid extra spaces and carriage returns to maximize the availability of space.

NA





**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**BUDGET INFORMATION**

**NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS**

OMB Control Number: 1894-0008

Expiration Date: 02/28/2011

Name of Institution/Organization:  
Nebraska Department of Education

Applicants requesting funding for only one year should complete the column under "Project Year 1." Applicants requesting funding for multi-year grants should complete all applicable columns. Please read all instructions before completing form.

**SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY**  
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FUNDS**

| Budget Categories                 | Project Year 1(a) | Project Year 2 (b) | Project Year 3 (c) | Project Year 4 (d) | Project Year 5 (e) | Total (f)    |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. Personnel                      | \$ 747,806        | \$ 788,514         | \$ 722,573         | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 2,258,893 |
| 2. Fringe Benefits                | \$ 373,930        | \$ 415,649         | \$ 392,593         | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 1,182,172 |
| 3. Travel                         | \$ 139,195        | \$ 86,716          | \$ 76,997          | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 302,908   |
| 4. Equipment                      | \$ 50,700         | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 50,700    |
| 5. Supplies                       | \$ 45,150         | \$ 37,056          | \$ 34,287          | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 116,493   |
| 6. Contractual                    | \$ 1,499,878      | \$ 1,013,414       | \$ 660,117         | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 3,173,409 |
| 7. Construction                   | \$ 0              | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0         |
| 8. Other                          | \$ 31,134         | \$ 33,479          | \$ 30,940          | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 95,553    |
| 9. Total Direct Costs (lines 1-8) | \$ 2,887,793      | \$ 2,374,828       | \$ 1,917,507       | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 7,180,128 |
| 10. Indirect Costs*               | \$ 94,213         | \$ 77,936          | \$ 72,968          | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 245,117   |
| 11. Training Stipends             | \$ 0              | \$ 0               | \$ 10,000          | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 10,000    |
| 12. Total Costs (lines 9-11)      | \$ 2,982,006      | \$ 2,452,764       | \$ 2,000,475       | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 7,435,245 |

**\*Indirect Cost Information (To Be Completed by Your Business Office):**

If you are requesting reimbursement for indirect costs on line 10, please answer the following questions:

(1) Do you have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by the Federal government?  Yes  No

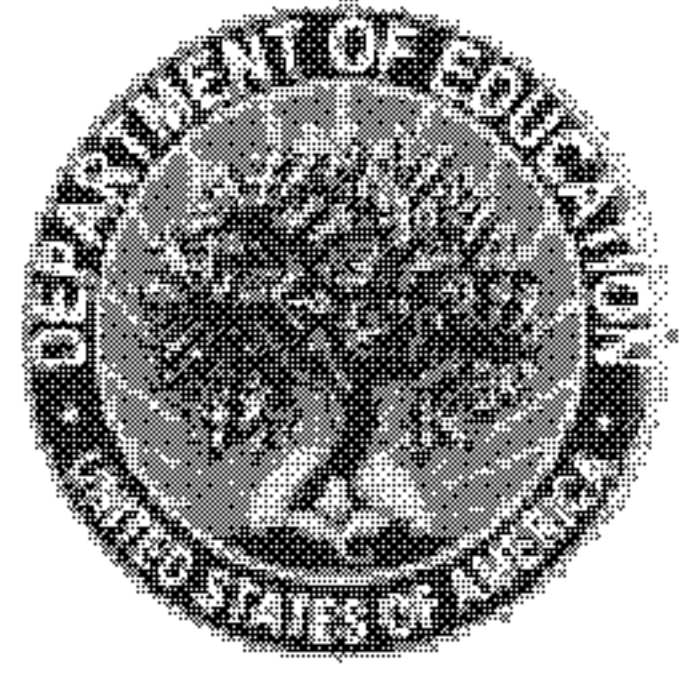
(2) If yes, please provide the following information:

Period Covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement: From: 7/1/2008 To: 6/30/2011 (mm/dd/yyyy)

Approving Federal agency:  ED  Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_ The Indirect Cost Rate is 4.7%

(3) For Restricted Rate Programs (check one) -- Are you using a restricted indirect cost rate that:

Is included in your approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement? or,  Complies with 34 CFR 76.564(c)(2)? The Restricted Indirect Cost Rate is 4.7%



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**BUDGET INFORMATION**

**NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS**

OMB Control Number: 1894-0008

Expiration Date: 02/28/2011

Name of Institution/Organization:  
Nebraska Department of Education

Applicants requesting funding for only one year should complete the column under "Project Year 1." Applicants requesting funding for multi-year grants should complete all applicable columns. Please read all instructions before completing form.

**SECTION B - BUDGET SUMMARY**

**NON-FEDERAL FUNDS**

| Budget Categories                 | Project Year 1(a) | Project Year 2 (b) | Project Year 3 (c) | Project Year 4 (d) | Project Year 5 (e) | Total (f)    |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. Personnel                      | \$ 269,502        | \$ 265,026         | \$ 226,403         | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 760,931   |
| 2. Fringe Benefits                | \$ 100,330        | \$ 102,008         | \$ 91,995          | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 294,333   |
| 3. Travel                         | \$ 66,542         | \$ 16,256          | \$ 16,874          | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 99,672    |
| 4. Equipment                      | \$ 0              | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0         |
| 5. Supplies                       | \$ 9,886          | \$ 9,726           | \$ 10,115          | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 29,727    |
| 6. Contractual                    | \$ 0              | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0         |
| 7. Construction                   | \$ 0              | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0         |
| 8. Other                          | \$ 6,827          | \$ 7,099           | \$ 7,384           | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 21,310    |
| 9. Total Direct Costs (lines 1-8) | \$ 453,087        | \$ 400,115         | \$ 352,771         | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 1,205,973 |
| 10. Indirect Costs                | \$ 0              | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0         |
| 11. Training Stipends             | \$ 0              | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 0         |
| 12. Total Costs (lines 9-11)      | \$ 453,087        | \$ 400,115         | \$ 352,771         | \$ 0               | \$ 0               | \$ 1,205,973 |



## ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Standard Form 424B (Rev.7-97)

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington DC 20503.

**PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.**

**NOTE:** Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States, and if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. "4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. "1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. '794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act
9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. "276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. '276c and 18 U.S.C. "874) and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. " 327-333), regarding labor standards for federally assisted construction sub-agreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. "1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clear Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clear Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. "7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, (P.L. 93-523); and (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. "1721 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance

of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. " 6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) " 523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. " 290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. ' 3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. "1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. '470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. "469a-1 et seq.).

14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. "2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. "4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead- based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations and policies governing this program.

**Signature of Authorized Certifying Representative:**

**Name of Authorized Certifying Representative:** Robert M Beecham

**Title:** Senior Administrator

**Date Submitted:** 12/02/2009



## CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements.

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal Loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance.

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee or any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

**APPLICANT'S ORGANIZATION**

Nebraska Department of Education

**PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE**

Prefix: Dr.      First Name: Scott      Middle Name: H

Last Name: Swisher      Suffix:

Title: Deputy Commissioner

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_      Date: 12/02/2009



**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION  
REQUIRED FOR  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GRANTS**

**1. Project Director:**

Prefix:      \* First Name:              Middle Name:              \* Last Name:              Suffix:  
Mr.          Robert                              M                              Beecham

Address:

\* Street1:              301 Centennial Mall South  
Street2:                6th Floor  
\* City:                    Lincoln  
County:                 Lancaster  
\* State:                 NE\* Zip / Postal Code: 68509 \* Country: USA

\* Phone Number (give area      Fax Number (give area  
code)                                      code)  
(402)471-4740                              (402)471-0774

Email Address:

BOB.BEECHAM@NEBRASKA.GOV

**2. Applicant Experience**

Novice Applicant                       Yes               No               Not applicable

**3. Human Subjects Research**

Are any research activities involving human subjects planned at any time during the proposed project period?

Yes               No

Are ALL the research activities proposed designated to be exempt from the regulations?

Yes      Provide Exemption(s) #:

No      Provide Assurance #, if available:

**Please attach an explanation Narrative:**

**Attachment:**

Title :  
File :

# **Project Narrative**

## **Project Narrative - Project Abstract**

Attachment 1:

Title: **Nebraska Abstract** Pages: **1** Uploaded File: **n:\SLDS\_GRANT\_ABSTRACT\_2009-12-03-A.pdf**



**Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems Grant**  
**CFDA Number: 84.384**  
**Nebraska**  
**Abstract**

Nebraska is pleased to submit an application for 2010 funding under the State Longitudinal Data System grant program. If funded, this application will meet all of the capabilities and America COMPETES Act elements outlined in the Request for Application. While the Nebraska Department of Education will be the primary recipient of the grant, overall governance will be the responsibility of the Nebraska P-16 Initiative. Currently headed by Governor Dave Heineman, the Initiative was formed to facilitate the transition of students from prekindergarten to high school to postsecondary education. A memorandum of understanding for the new system, that includes all levels of Nebraska education will be in place before the grant begins. The letters provided in appendix D, demonstrate the widespread support for this application.

This application requests funding for eight specific projects that will provide Nebraska with a comprehensive PK-20 data system that meet the required capabilities and elements described in the Request for Application. The flagship project of this application will establish linkages with postsecondary data systems by extending Nebraska's current SLDS into Nebraska public postsecondary institutions. It will include the assignment of the NDE Student ID to postsecondary students and the reporting of data on those students to the existing NDE data warehouse. This application also requests funding to link teachers to the institution where they received their preparation.

This application describes plans to link teachers to students by adding two new data collections to Nebraska's system; one to collect detailed information on the courses teachers teach and the other to collect courses completed and the grades earned by students. This will require a new teacher ID system. In addition, this application reflects Nebraska's focus on Early Childhood education by creating an expanded data system to support this important activity.

Like other states, Nebraska is struggling to implement the new high school graduation guidelines. This application requests funding for an automated tool to assist school districts in locating their students and creates a unique framework for locating dropouts that may be enrolled in a neighboring state. The Career Education Analysis outcome requests funding to use the data collected by the longitudinal system to test the concept of tracking students who are "concentrators" beyond high school.

Finally, this application requests funding that will provide critical support for new projects by expanding our very successful training network. This network was established to supplement the staff development efforts of our regional Educational Service Units. In addition, funding is requested to expand our public reporting facilities to include new data categories described in this application. Together, the outcomes described in this application will enable Nebraska to efficiently and accurately manage, analyze, disaggregate and use individual student and staff data to support district and school efforts to close the achievement gap while also increasing overall student achievement.

# Project Narrative

## Project Narrative - Project Narrative

Attachment 1:

Title: **Nebraska Project Narrative** Pages: **30** Uploaded File: **n:\SLDS\_GRANT\_PROJECT\_NARRATIVE\_2009-12-03-A.pdf**

**Longitudinal Data Systems Grant  
CFDA Number: 84.384  
Nebraska**

**Project Narrative**

**A. Need for Project**

The current Nebraska Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) was designed to support various state and federal program activities and functions. While the Nebraska Student and Staff Record System (NSSRS) cannot currently meet all twelve elements of the *America COMPETES Act* or the seven capabilities outlined in Section IV of the Request for Application, the system is designed with a flexible data architecture that allows for change and expansion. The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) believes that Nebraska's SLDS can meet the expanding needs of state policy makers, the requirements outlined in this grant program and other programs of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)*. This application will also support Nebraska's Race to the Top application where the primary objective is to support district and school efforts to close the achievement gap while also increasing overall student achievement.

This section outlines the current capabilities of Nebraska's SLDS and describes the areas that will need to be supplemented with funding from this grant and from other sources.

In school year 2007-08 the NDE began the first full year of implementation of Nebraska's SLDS known as the Nebraska Student and Staff Record system (NSSRS) in Nebraska public schools. NSSRS included the implementation of the NDE Student ID (eScholar Uniq-ID<sup>®</sup> for Students) and the creation of a state data warehouse (eScholar Complete Data Warehouse<sup>®</sup> for PK-12), which incorporated student level demographic data (including data regarding special education, programs for English language learners, school district or Educational Service Unit operated early childhood programs), student enrollment data, student performance data and other program participation data. In 2007, Nebraska received funding under the second round of the SLDS grant program. That grant funded the following projects:

- Incorporation of Special Education and Curriculum components: Special Education data has been incorporated into the NSSRS and updating curriculum component will be delayed to coordinate with the Student and Teacher Course Information (B) outcome proposed in this application.
- Implementation of the Data Quality Curriculum: The curriculum is complete and now part of an overall strategy to continuously improve data quality, including an annual data conference.
- Creation of an Electronic Transcript Facility: The Nebraska eTranscript Initiative has been adopted in over 75% of Nebraska schools.

- Installation of a decision support system: The Data Reporting System (DRS) will be implemented in December 2009 and will provide access to detailed data via the internet. See “A.6 Data Reporting System” in Appendix A for an example of an “Advanced Inquiry” report.
- Supplementing existing training with staff at regional Educational Service Units: This very successful project has provided regional support to Nebraska school districts as they implement new state data systems.

As Nebraska developed the NSSRS, standards and guidelines of the National Center for Education Statistics were incorporated. In addition to the handbook series that defined data elements on various topics, NDE has used most of the National Forum on Education Statistics guides including the *Forum Guide to Protecting the Privacy of Student Information: State and Local Education Agencies (2004)*, the *Forum Guide to the Privacy of Student Information: A Resource for Schools (2006)* and the *Forum Guide to Implementing New Federal Race and Ethnicity Categories (2008)*. In addition, eScholar, Nebraska’s provider for unique ID and data warehouse systems, incorporates the NCES standards and guidelines into their products.

Nebraska has developed partnerships with State workforce agencies and the workforce investment system to build a data system that can provide information to inform complex policy questions that cut across education, the workforce, and economic development contexts. Several initial projects support the elements of coordination and partnership among different state agencies. As part of preliminary relationship development the NDE worked collaboratively with the Nebraska Department of Labor (DOL) and the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) to achieve a Family Policy Compliance Office (FPCO) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) approved Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage record matching project for purposes of identifying employment placement rates of graduates of the students identified within the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins).

In addition, Nebraska also created a non-government organization entitled FutureForce Nebraska that strives to coordinate the priorities of Economic Development, the needs of Workforce Development, and the delivery of educational programs at the secondary and postsecondary levels in Nebraska. A developing project focus of FutureForce is the creation of a database that captures the services, priorities, and resources available among local, regional, state, and federal programs. The data will then be used to identify alignment, duplication, and to highlight gaps among programs and services in education, training, and workforce initiatives. Further, the incorporation of participant data of programs stemming from informal education systems, such as community- and faith-based organizations, creates a unique opportunity to develop a more comprehensive analysis of student achievement. The impact of the Nebraska SLDS to support the efforts of alignment provides tremendous promise.

NDE has a longstanding partnership with research groups within Nebraska and outside the state. Most of these researchers are employed by state universities or work at



regional labs. NDE regularly provides data to national research organizations and works closely with Nebraska universities and colleges in the evaluation of state education programs. For example, NDE is currently working with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to evaluate Nebraska state math programs. NDE developed the *Nebraska Data Access and Management Policy* that describes the procedures researchers and NDE must follow in releasing student data within FERPA guidelines.

In developing this application, NDE consulted extensively with key stakeholders. This application is a joint effort between the Nebraska P-16 Initiative and the Nebraska Department of Education. This application contains letters of support from the organizations represented on the executive committee of the Nebraska P-16 Initiative. Another important sounding board for this application has been Nebraska's state education Data Advisory Committee that includes school administrators, teachers, and data experts. NDE also consulted individually with representatives of the University of Nebraska system, Nebraska State College system and Nebraska Community College system. Further, NDE consulted with statewide organizations including the Nebraska State Education Association (teachers union), the Nebraska Association of School Boards, and the Nebraska Council of School Administrators. NDE is confident that all stakeholders are aware of Nebraska's current ability to meet the SLDS requirements.

The remainder of Section A will describe the extent to which Nebraska's SLDS currently supports each of the seven required capabilities and twelve essential elements. Section B will describe in detail how each of the eight outcomes proposed in this application relate to each capability and element, either to eliminate a deficiency or to actually make use of that capability or element.

### ***Required Capabilities***

#### Capability 1 (C1): Enable States to examine student progress and outcomes over time

Nebraska assigns an NDE Student ID to all public school students prekindergarten (PK) through grade 12. NDE Student IDs are assigned to students who are served by a public school prekindergarten program. The NSSRS contains individual student performance data in math, reading, writing, and science. The NSSRS can follow individual student progress on State assessments in these subjects over time. Nebraska has a contract with the *National Student Clearinghouse* to obtain college-going data on Nebraska high school graduates. While there is currently no direct linkage to postsecondary, workforce, or Armed Forces data sources, this grant application focuses on the connections to postsecondary data. The plan to extend a connection to workforce data sources is a future project.

NDE considers early childhood to be a foundational part of a child's P-16 educational experience. While NDE has included children from birth to kindergarten age who are served by schools and educational service units in the NSSRS, the majority of prekindergarten children are served in programs outside the scope of public education. To adequately improve the kindergarten readiness of prekindergarten children, Nebraska seeks to build an information system to

collect and use data regarding child participation in early childhood programs across systems. The use of unique student identifiers is a key element of this interface. It will be necessary to seek a change of policy in order to assign unique student identifiers beyond the current scope of NDE and to extend to community-based early childhood programs including Head Start and child care. A second key element in this interface is the creation of a training registry. This training registry will provide crucial data regarding the preparation, ongoing training, and effectiveness of early childhood educators in early childhood programs beyond public education.

Nebraska's postsecondary environment provides unique opportunities for coordination among public postsecondary institutions, which include:

- University of Nebraska System
  - University of Nebraska-Kearney (UNK) campus
  - University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) campus
  - University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)
  - University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) campus
- Nebraska State College System
  - Chadron State College
  - Peru State College
  - Wayne State College
- Nebraska Community College System
  - Central Community College
  - Metropolitan Community College
  - Mid-Plains Community College
  - Northeast Community College
  - Southeast Community College
  - Western Community College

The University of Nebraska system operates four separate campuses at Lincoln, Omaha, Kearney, and a Medical Center. A board of regents provides oversight and policy direction for these institutions. The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) is also a campus within the University system that provides less than baccalaureate degrees in areas related to agriculture.

The Nebraska State College system consists of three primary institutions that originated with a teacher education mission. The state colleges are governed a board and supported by a separate state funded coordinating body.

Six community college areas are delineated by geographic region and are independently managed by different elected boards of directors. The geographic regions provide different mechanisms for delivering education within the region. The Nebraska Community College Association strives to provide coordination among the institutions but the individual institutions maintain autonomy within a geographic region and include multiple campus locations within each region.



The University of Nebraska system (four University campuses) and the Nebraska State College system (three college campuses) are in the midst of implementing a new shared student information system to be implemented fall 2010. The six community colleges within Nebraska each have their own student information system. This grant application does not include Nebraska's private postsecondary institutions.

The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) is a state agency that works to provide coordination and some aspects of oversight for the higher education institutions in Nebraska. The CCPE provides support for data reporting, conducts research studies commissioned by the Executive and Legislative Branch, and provides approval, through a board, of new programmatic offerings and capital expenditures of the higher education institutions in Nebraska.

The work on this required capability is ongoing in Nebraska; however, with support from this grant, Nebraska will be able to improve its capability to examine student progress and outcomes over time. The flagship project of this grant request will be the expansion of the NDE Student ID and data warehouse from PK-12 into postsecondary education. This grant will help Nebraska meet an important goal of Nebraska P-16 (See "A.3 Nebraska P-16 Goals" in Appendix A for a complete list):

"Develop an effective longitudinal data system which provides information on the Nebraska educational system from preschool through post graduate degree attainment and entry into the work force to help align resources with strategic goals."

Nebraska needs to begin discussions and planning to support potential linkages to the workforce and Armed Services in order to track student outcomes and progress. The baseline relationship of the data matching with the Nebraska Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage record system is an essential area of exploration and development. The creation of the Memorandums of Understanding, processes ensuring confidentiality, and the opportunity to create systemic options for administrative data matching among state and federal databases. Potential use of the Wage Record Interchange System (WRIS), the Federal Employees Data System (FEDES), the US Railroad System, and the federal Department of Defense (DOD) systems allow for an accurate and reliable source of post-school activity data. In addition, consideration for alignment to other workforce data systems including Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Adult and Basic Education (ABE), and Technical Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is important.

In summary, this application requests funding to support this capability as part of the following outcomes: Postsecondary Student Information (A), Student and Teacher Course Information (B), Cohort Analysis (E), Career Education Analysis (F), Birth to Five Early Childhood (G), and Continuation and Expansion of Support Systems (H).

