

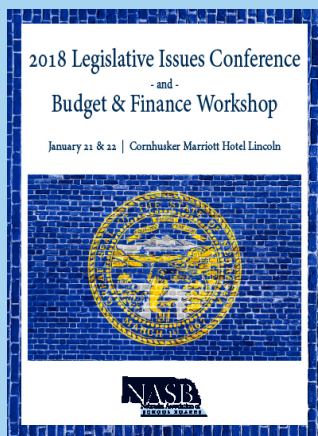
Upcoming Events

105th Legislature, 2nd Session
Begins Wednesday, January 3

School Board Recognition Week
Starts January 22nd!

Legislative Issues Conference
January 21-22 | Lincoln

Budget & Finance Workshop
January 22 | Lincoln



NSBA Advocacy Institute
February 4-6 | Washington D.C.

President's Retreat*
February 18-19 | Lincoln
February 25-26 | North Platte

Education Forum*
February 21-22 | Kearney

NAEP State Convention*
March 20-21 | Grand Island

*Mark Your Calendar

BOARD NOTES

A monthly publication from the Nebraska Association of School Boards



ESU 4 PROVIDES VISION FOR THOSE WITHOUT SIGHT

By Sally Schreiner, ESU 4

As NASB looks to celebrate its 100th year, it is a program going on for over 140-years that caught our attention.

HISTORY

Founded in 1875, the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI) sits on a nine-acre campus full of trees and beautiful landscaping in Nebraska City, the Home of Arbor Day, a community with a rich tradition of tree planting.

Samuel Bacon, our founder, was stricken at the age of 11 with scarlet fever that left him blind himself. Bacon was born in Ohio in 1823. He was well known for his knowledge of the woods, birds, animals, math and his skills in swimming and running. As an adult, he did not let his blindness slow him down with the activities in which he excelled as a child.

When he was 15 years old, he entered the Institute for the Blind in Columbus, Ohio, where he demonstrated his remarkable abilities in mathematics but objected to learning reading and writing. He later learned to read with the "point system" and advocated this strongly. In 1847, at only 24, Bacon established the school for the blind in Illinois. By 1852, he and his wife, Sarah, moved to Iowa where a school for the blind was created under his leadership, before settling in Nebraska in 1874, where he quickly put forth his efforts to the Nebraska Legislative sessions until he succeeded in gaining an appropriation for yet another school for the blind.

That school opened in 1875, in a small rented house in Nebraska City with three students, all sisters, from neighboring Johnson County. Students were enrolled up to the age of 65. After the final building was added, the grounds were planted, sidewalks and drives finished, and the school was complete in 1890.

Over the years the motto branded by Mr. Bacon has remained, "Not just a living, but a life."



ESU 4

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Linda Engel, Allison Hayes
Gary Schaffer, Leslie Stevens
Mary Stewart, Lana Wilman

Gregg Robke - ESU Administrator

Proudly Serving Johnson, Nemaha,
Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson counties.

NASB Region #1

www.esu4.org

Continued On Page 2

Continued From Page 1

The continued focus of the school is to improve the learning of children who are blind or visually impaired so they can reach their highest level of independence.

NCECBVI TODAY

In the late 1990s, NDE challenged the school to broaden its scope to include outreach programs and services for students, families and educators statewide. The staff welcomed this idea as they were already addressing some needs as teachers, administrators and parents called looking for answers on how best to educate the students.

In 1998, NDE worked with the school to put together a planning team of stakeholders to develop a statewide plan. The planning team represented parents, consumers, teachers endorsed to teach the visually impaired, and special education directors from small, medium and large school districts and ESUs across Nebraska. The State Board of Education approved the original plan that December.

Historically, staff at the school were employees of the State/Department of Education. As the plan was in the final stages, NDE made the decision to contract the newly defined school and outreach programs through ESU 4, who would now be in charge of implementing the newly approved state plan for vision services, identifying and hiring the staff required to do so. The partnership made sense as school districts in Nebraska already work with their nearby ESU to provide a variety of special education programs and services.

Today's statewide plan for vision services include the following:

- Center-Based Program and Residential Services
- Instructional Materials
- Student and Family Support Programs
- Assessment and Evaluation Services
- Consultation Services
- Professional Development and Training.

The center-based program continues to serve as an option for providing school-aged students with instruction in academics, functional skills, transition programming and the expanded core curriculum. NCECBVI works closely with local school districts to determine course credit, assessment tools, and individual student programs. The residential services provide a comprehensive program with extended training opportunities for social skills, community participation, and independent living. NCECBVI provides a variety of options for students such as part-time enrollment options with some time back in the local district, day services, and full-time residential services.

In addition to the center-based program, NCECBVI provides a variety of Student and Family Support Programs. These offerings provided throughout the school year and summer include camps for kids, parent training and networking opportunities, braille competitions and family weekends. Students and families from across the state call NCECBVI their "home-away-from-home" for these extended learning opportunities.

The Nebraska Instructional Resource Center (NIRC) is housed at NCECBVI and supports the local school districts and teachers of the visually impaired in providing



Front of the current school built in the 1950s



Emily is checking out the tub of pumpkins on a Fall field trip



Guillermo learning about the drums from a fellow drummer in the marching band



A parent baking a cake blindfolded at a parent workshop

Continued On Page 3

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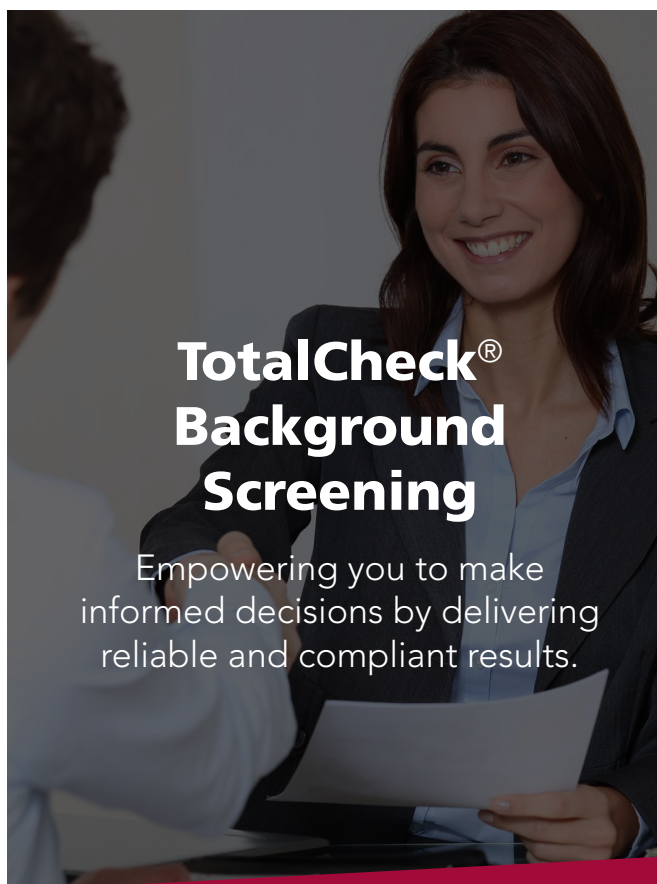


students statewide with large print and braille curriculum and instructional materials. The NIRC staff oversee and implement the APH Federal Quota Program, serve as Trustees to APH, and locate and provide the needed curriculum for students in the appropriate format to approximately 800 students in Nebraska. NCECBVI also provides consultation, advisory and technical assistance services, among a number of other items. Professional development and training is provided for teachers, related service providers, parents, and agency personnel. Each year, two statewide conferences are held to provide the opportunity for staff on campus and teachers from all over Nebraska to come together to receive education, training and networking, with national experts brought in to present these conferences. In addition to staff development offerings, NCECBVI collaborates with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to support and promote the graduate program for visual impairments. Over time, Nebraska has greatly increased their number of teachers of the visually impaired due to this collaboration.

“Until I joined the board I didn’t know that NCECBVI in Nebraska City was part of the ESU 4 family,” said Cheri Wirthele, Board President - ESU 4. “I don’t believe other Nebraskans realize what is right in their own backyards.”

We are very proud of the relationships, collaboration and partnerships that exist between all those who are involved in educating our students in Nebraska. As our state is large with many miles from east to west, we are fortunate to work with others in more a “small town” way. There is a strong connection with NCECBVI staff and all of our local school district administrators, teachers of the visually impaired, and certified and orientation and mobility specialists. This statewide plan was intended to make NCECBVI a “go to” resource for many. We have accomplished this in more ways that we imagined in 1998. Regardless of the program or service, “Not just a living, but a life” continues to fit our mission.

For more information about NCECBVI, please see www.ncecbvi.org or contact Sally Schreiner at 402-873-5513.



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Advocacy 101 - We Are All In This Together!!!

WHAT IS MY ROLE?

YOU are an advocate for Public Education!

As a school board member, YOU are in an excellent position to **educate** and **influence** the legislative process!

YOU are seen as a key resource on ed policy.

Be a resource.

Stay informed.

Communicate TO and FOR your district.

Stay in your comfort zone.

Build relationships.

Know your Senator ... AND THE OTHER 48!

Find your fit.

As an elected official, you are a community leader.

No one is more qualified to talk about your school district, your community, and your needs related to providing your students a quality education than you!

Don't take for granted the access we have as Nebraskans to our State Senators & Federal Representatives.

It is not like that everywhere!

The 2018 Legislative Session kicks off January 3!

Stay informed, involved, and engaged with NASB's legislative communication and these tips to be a better advocate for your district, community, and all of Nebraska!



Last year, there were:

- 667 Bills Introduced, 130 Bills related to Education and/or Taxes
- 114 Bills that remain on General/Select File
- 173 Bills that became Law
- 30 Bills held by the Education Committee

Your role as an advocate for education and **EDUCATING** is more important than ever!



With term limits and the like, in the past 10 years, there have been more than 100 new Senators elected. In 2018:

- 24 of 49 seats are up for election.
- 16 seated Senators face re-election.
- At least 8 new Senators will be elected. (6 Senators are term-limited, 2 not re-running)
- 74% of the current body has less than 4-years experience. (36 of 49 are new as of 2014)

You are likely educating them on the good or bad of the particular bill.

RESOURCES:

- Bookmark the Government Relations page of www.NASBonline.org
- Have a copy of NASB's Advocacy Handbook close at all times
- Utilize NASB's Legislative Notes summarizing all pertinent items
- Know your representative on NASB's Legislation Committee
- www.NebraskaLegislature.gov
- Your local TV/Print/Radio outlets
- Twitter/Facebook/Social Media: #neleg

TWITTER:

- @NASBonline - @UnicamUpdate - @Nebraskagov - @nebraskanews
- Follow your (and all) State Senators, as well as State, Regional and Local reporters/outlets ... @PaulHammelOWH - @fredmknapp
- @stoddardOWH - @LJSdon

Senators value a school board member taking their personal time to testify.

- Speak to your experiences as a sbm
- Use data, financials
- OFFER SOLUTIONS!

ADVOCACY

NASB's legislative team are always here to answer any questions you may have, or help as you or your district looks to get more engaged in the overall process. When it comes to advocating for public education, a little can do a lot!



Legislative Issues Conference | January 21 & 22



Gov. Pete Ricketts



Speaker Jim Scheer
Former School Board Member



Sen. Bob Krist
Candidate for Governor



Sen. Mike Groene
Education
Committee Chair



Sen. John Stinner
Appropriations
Committee Chair
Former School Board Member

REGISTRATION IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE 2018 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES CONFERENCE!



SUNDAY EVENING:

Former State Senator Colby Coash

"Public Education in Nebraska. It's YOUR Story To Tell! Change The Narrative And Get Results."

MONDAY MORNING:

We have invited the Governor, Speaker; select Committee Chairs and committee representatives, and 2018 candidates to address the audience on this year's legislative session. Lunch with Senators will follow the morning speakers.

Following lunch, we encourage you to extend your day by attending the Budget & Finance Workshop. We look forward to seeing you in Lincoln for these important events as well all become better advocates for public education in Nebraska! Register now at www.NASBonline.org

(Speaker list subject to change)



Sen. Lynne Walz
Education Committee



Sen. Burke Harr
Revenue Committee

BUDGET & FINANCE WORKSHOP | JANUARY 22

REGISTRATION IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE 2018 BUDGET & FINANCE WORKSHOP!

As a Leadership Team, it is the responsibility of both the board and Superintendent/ESU Administrator to manage the finances within their district/ESU. This workshop will feature Superintendents Matt Fisher of Northwest Public Schools and Carl Dietz of Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools, two school finance experts, who will share their experiences in:

- Overview of individual school funds and approved uses
- Understanding the building of a budget
- Learning how Special Education affects a budget
- TEEOSA Formula 101
- Negotiations - what can be negotiated & what to expect
- Explanation of funds and their uses
- Cash reserves
- Tax receipts by month
- How to share the budget & finance information with the community

Register now at www.NASBonline.org



Merry Christmas from NASB!



John



Shane



Shari



Belka



Megan



Makenzie



Craig



Daniel



Greg



Dunning



Sharon



Jen



Marcia



Rachel



Nicole



Will



Jim



Jason



Jesse



Lisa



Sallie



Vicki



*Warmest wishes for a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!*

Training, Networking & Events



Join NASB, as we tour the state for various workshops, meetings and events throughout the year.

To learn more, and register, visit the Events tab of www.NASBonline.org

105th Legislature, 2nd Session Begins Wednesday, January 3rd

School Board Recognition Week starts January 22nd!



Legislative Issues Conference / Budget & Finance Workshop

January 21-22 | Lincoln

Hear from the movers and shakers inside the Legislature about the key issues affecting Nebraska's public schools. Following LIC, stay for the Budget & Finance Workshop on Monday afternoon. As a Leadership Team, it is the responsibility of both the board and Superintendent/ESU Administrator to manage the finances within their district/ESU. See more details on Page 5.



President's Retreat - Save The Date!

February 18-19 | Lincoln

February 25-26 | North Platte

Board Presidents, and those who aspire to be President are invited to attend the NASB President's Retreat, "Developing a Board President Leadership Plan." Sunday night starts with a Social, Dinner & Training, followed by an all day work session Monday. "Successful leadership is defined by RELATIONSHIPS and RESULTS." - Stephen Covey

Education Forum | February 21-22 | Kearney
Registration Coming Soon!



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jw1cpa@aol.com | www.gowh.com
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BCDM Architects
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jcarlson@cwparhitects.com
Jamie Eckmann - 402-551-1500
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twood@schemmer.com | www.schemmer.com
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larryking@awardsunlimited.com
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sott@nisbenefits.com | www.nisbenefits.com
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"I Am Public Education in Nebraska"
<https://vimeo.com/194260783>

"For Me"
<https://vimeo.com/243667570>

Searching for Leadership?

Through a collaborative working relationship with the Board of Education, the NASB Education Leadership Search Service ensures a highly-professional search process that will not only attract the very best applicants, but will bring credit to the board for the manner in which the search is conducted.

For Information, contact:

Shari Becker
Director of Search Service
www.NASBsuptsearch.org
800-422-4572
sbecker@NASBOnline.org



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your Membership Guide)



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Regions 3, 6 & 7
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John Spatz
Executive Director



Shane Bateman
Software Engineer



Shari Becker
Director of Education
Leadership Search Service



Matt Belka
Director of Marketing,
Communications & Advocacy



Megan Boldt
Director of ALICAP Insurance



Makenzie Brookhouser
Events & ALICAP Associate



Craig Caples
Director of Technology



Daniel Clarke
Systems Engineer



Greg Dorn
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Matt Dunning
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Sharon Endorf
Event Manager



Jen Goetz
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Lisa Steinkuhler
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Mark Your Calendar & Register



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President's Retreat | February 25-26 | North Platte

NAEP State Convention | March 20-21 | Grand Island

NSBA Annual Conference - Be Extraordinary | April 7-9 | San Antonio



Learn more on all of the above and more under the EVENTS tab of www.NASBOnline.org



Paul Grieger
(800) 528-5145
pgrieger@dadco.com



Cody Wickham
(866) 809-5596
cwickham@dadco.com



Andy Forney
(866) 809-5443
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IN THIS EDITION

ESU 4 Provides Vision for those without Sight

Advocacy 101 - We Are All In This Together!!!

Legislative Issues Conference | January 21 & 22

Budget & Finance Workshop | January 22

Merry Christmas from NASB!

Training, Networking & Events

NASB Affiliates

NASB Board of Directors & Staff

Mark Your Calendar & Register

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December 2017

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