

State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 30, 2025 – 2:30 p.m.

Participants and Guests use Teams Link for remote participation:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/2148172641483?p=7bH592bM8yRTpFwUos>

The Nebraska State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children held its annual meeting on May 30, 2025. Publicized notice of the meeting was given by posting notice on the Department’s website, which gave the date, time and location of the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Brian Halstead, Deputy Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education and Council Commissioner of the State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, called the meeting to order at 10:46 a.m. The following members were present via ZOOM: Brian Halstead, Council Commissioner; Ami Huff, NDE Legal Counsel; Dr. Brian Maher, NDE Commissioner; Dr. Jeff Rippe, Superintendent, Bellevue Public Schools; Patrick Kolesiak, Offutt Airforce Base 55th Wing Support Group Commander.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments were offered.

3. APPROVAL OF 2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Brian Halstead, second by Jeff Rippe to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2024, State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children meeting.

Brian Halstead:	Yes
Jeff Rippe:	Yes
Ami Huff:	Yes
Brian Maher:	Abstain
Patrick Kolesiak:	Yes

The motion passed.

4. APPOINT AMI HUFF, NDE LEGAL COUNSEL, AS THE MILITARY FAMILY EDUCATION LIAISON PURSUANT TO NEB.REV.STAT 79-2204

Motion by Commissioner Maher, second by Jeff Rippe to appoint Ami Huff, NDE Legal Counsel, as the Military Family Education Liaison pursuant to Neb.Rev.Stat. 79-2204.

Brian Halstead:	Yes
Jeff Rippe:	Yes
Ami Huff:	Abstain
Brian Maher:	Yes
Patrick Kolesiak:	Yes

The motion passed.

5. REPORTS BY MEMBERS ON ACTIVITY OR ISSUES OCCURING

Patrick Kolesiak, Offutt Airforce Base 55th Wing Support Group Commander, stated that they have no issues to report. Reiterate the great partnership with the State of Nebraska and local school board. Bellevue Schools has all of their schools as purple star schools and working with Papillion-LaVista Schools making more purple star schools in that school district. Thank you to Dr. Jeff Rippe and Nebraska Department of Education and the proclamation for the month of the military child.

Dr. Jeff Rippe, Superintendent, Bellevue Public Schools, reported that the Bellevue Public Schools has not heard of any issues this past year. Dr. Rippe expressed his appreciation of everyone's efforts and is looking forward to another great year.

Commissioner Maher, great to hear the comments and do what we need to do for support. Comfortable with the communication with Dr. Jeff Rippe. Issues quickly become non-issues

Senator Dave Murman, legislation passed for welcoming military students, look forward continuing being welcoming to students of military.

Brian Halstead, Compact Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Nebraska Department of Education, stated that he has received no requests for services under the Compact. School districts are working diligently, and Compact is not utilized. All states want to be welcoming to military families.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Compact Commissioner Halstead adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.