

**FISCAL NOTE**  
 LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

| <b>ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES</b> (See narrative for political subdivision estimates) |                   |         |                   |         |
|---|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
|   | <b>FY 2024-25</b> |         | <b>FY 2025-26</b> |         |
|   | EXPENDITURES      | REVENUE | EXPENDITURES      | REVENUE |
| GENERAL FUNDS   | See Below         |         | See Below         |         |
| CASH FUNDS  |                   |         |                   |         |
| FEDERAL FUNDS   |                   |         |                   |         |
| OTHER FUNDS   |                   |         |                   |         |
| TOTAL FUNDS   | See Below         |         | See Below         |         |

**Any Fiscal Notes received from state agencies and political subdivisions are attached following the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Estimate.**

LB1254 amends §79-2607 to changes provisions to the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act.

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) will develop & implement a professional learning system to help provide sustained professional learning & training in high quality instruction in reading for teachers who teach students in kindergarten through third grade at an approved or accredited school & teachers employed by an early childhood education program approved by the State Board of Education. The professional learning system will include information & tips for teachers related to helping students & families work with local family literacy centers to strengthen home & family literacy programs & better instruct students in reading.

NDE will work with Educational Service Units (ESUs) to provide regional coaches to approved or accredited elementary schools to provide assistance & job-embedded training relating to instruction in reading to teachers who teach students in kindergarten through third grade.

**EXPENDITURES:**

There is intent to appropriate \$10,000,000 from the General Fund to NDE for FY2024-25 & each fiscal year thereafter.

NDE estimates the need for an additional FTE to coordinate & facilitate the program. For FY2024-25, the FTE will have salary/benefits expense of \$117,273; operating expenses of \$21,592; & travel expenses of \$9,668. For FY2025-26, the FTE will have salary/benefits expense of \$120,792; operating expenses of \$17,527; & travel expenses of \$9,957.

Remaining funds appropriated to NDE will be used to pay increased expenses to ESUs.

For FY2024-25, the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (ESUCC) estimates the need to add 37 FTEs across the seventeen ESUs in Nebraska. The FTEs will have a salary/benefits expense of \$3,700,000; & travel expenses of \$50,000. For FY2025-26, the number of FTEs needed increases to 74. The FTEs will have a salary/benefits expense of \$7,622,000; & travel expenses of \$100,000.

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**2024**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 1254**

**FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup> Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (ESUCC)

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Dr. Kraig J. Lofquist Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 02/12/2024 Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 402.597.4843

**ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION**

|                    | <u>FY 2024-25</u>   |                | <u>FY 2025-26</u>   |                |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
|                    | <u>EXPENDITURES</u> | <u>REVENUE</u> | <u>EXPENDITURES</u> | <u>REVENUE</u> |
| GENERAL FUNDS      | \$3,700,000         |                | \$7,622,000         |                |
| CASH FUNDS         |                     |                |                     |                |
| FEDERAL FUNDS      |                     |                |                     |                |
| OTHER FUNDS        |                     |                |                     |                |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b> | <b>\$3,700,000</b>  |                | <b>\$7,622,000</b>  |                |

**Explanation of Estimate:**

*\*\*The 2024-25 year estimate is considerably less, because it will take time to get the program up and running to full strength.*

This estimate is to have Nebraska’s ESUs provide **regional reading coaches**. Budgeted figures are based on the number of teachers served within the ESU area.

**Small ESUs** (including ESUs 4, 5, 6, 11, 15, 16 and 17) to employ **14 FTE** staff members, **2 FTE per ESU @ \$100,000/year** for each employee totaling \$1,400,000. **\*\*Note: 7 FTE staff members in 2024-25**

**Mid ESUs** (including ESUs 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9) to employ **20 FTE** staff members, **4 FTE per ESU @ \$100,000/year** for each employee totaling \$2,000,000. **\*\*Note: 10 FTE staff members in 2024-25**

**Large ESUs** (including ESUs 3, 10, 13, 18 and 19) to employ **40 FTE** staff members, **8 FTE per ESU @ \$100,000/year** for each employee totaling \$4,000,000. **\*\*Note: 20 FTE staff members in 2024-25**

Total salary and benefits equal \$3,700,000 for the 2024-25 year and \$7,622,000 for the 2025-26 school year, which includes a 3% cost increase.

Travel-\$50,000 year one and \$100,000 for year two.

*The breakdown below includes the cost of “benefits” which ARE included in the overall expenditures listed above.*

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

| <u>POSITION TITLE</u>     | <u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u> |              | <u>2024-25</u>      | <u>2025-26</u>      |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                           | <u>24-25</u>               | <u>25-26</u> | <u>EXPENDITURES</u> | <u>EXPENDITURES</u> |
| Regional Reading Coaches  | 37                         | 74           | \$2,600,000         | \$5,335,400         |
| Benefits.....             |                            |              | \$1,100,000         | \$2,286,600         |
| Operating.....            |                            |              |                     |                     |
| Travel.....               |                            |              | \$50,000            | \$100,000           |
| Capital outlay.....       |                            |              |                     |                     |
| Aid.....                  |                            |              |                     |                     |
| Capital improvements..... |                            |              |                     |                     |
| <b>TOTAL.....</b>         |                            |              | <b>\$3,750,000</b>  | <b>\$7,722,000</b>  |

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**2024**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 1254**

**FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup> Education

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Lane Carr Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 2.7.24 Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 402.419.3012

**ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION**

|               | <u>FY 2024-25</u>           |                             | <u>FY 2025-26</u>           |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|               | <u>EXPENDITURES</u>         | <u>REVENUE</u>              | <u>EXPENDITURES</u>         | <u>REVENUE</u>              |
| GENERAL FUNDS | <u>\$10,000,000</u>         | <u>                    </u> | <u>\$10,000,000</u>         | <u>                    </u> |
| CASH FUNDS    | <u>                    </u> | <u>                    </u> | <u>                    </u> | <u>                    </u> |
| FEDERAL FUNDS | <u>                    </u> | <u>                    </u> | <u>                    </u> | <u>                    </u> |
| OTHER FUNDS   | <u>                    </u> | <u>                    </u> | <u>                    </u> | <u>                    </u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS   | <u>\$10,000,000</u>         | <u>                    </u> | <u>\$10,000,000</u>         | <u>                    </u> |

**Explanation of Estimate:**

LB1254 amends the Reading Improvement Act to require the NDE to establish a professional learning system for K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students. Appropriates \$10 million in 2024-25 and each year thereafter. The bill provides funding for regional coaches to be placed at Educational Service Units across Nebraska as part of the professional learning system the Department implements.

The NDE would require one additional staff member to coordinate and facilitate provisions within the bill.

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

| <u>POSITION TITLE</u>     | <u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u> |              | <u>2024-25</u>      | <u>2025-26</u>      |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                           | <u>24-25</u>               | <u>25-26</u> | <u>EXPENDITURES</u> | <u>EXPENDITURES</u> |
| Ed Specialist III         | <u>1</u>                   | <u>1</u>     | <u>74,784</u>       | <u>78,523</u>       |
| Benefits.....             |                            |              | <u>42,489</u>       | <u>43,900</u>       |
| Operating.....            |                            |              | <u>21,592</u>       | <u>17,527</u>       |
| Travel.....               |                            |              | <u>9,668</u>        | <u>9,957</u>        |
| Capital outlay.....       |                            |              |                     |                     |
| Aid.....                  |                            |              | <u>\$9,851,467</u>  | <u>\$9,850,093</u>  |
| Capital improvements..... |                            |              |                     |                     |
| TOTAL.....                |                            |              | <u>\$10,000,000</u> | <u>\$10,000,000</u> |