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# AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR NEBRASKA



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**THE NEBRASKA STATE PLANNING BOARD**  
**APRIL, 1940**

# THE NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL SURVEY

A report outlining an educational program for Nebraska based on a series of ten fact-finding studies developed in the educational survey by co-operating study committees with a membership of over 100 Nebraska educators and others. Nationally known educators also contributed, as consultants, in the preparation of the proposed program.

**THE NEBRASKA STATE PLANNING BOARD**

**April, 1940**

# STATE OF NEBRASKA

R. L. COCHRAN, *Governor*

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United States Office of Education

P. H. Elwood, *Omaha, Neb., Regional Counselor,*  
National Resources Planning Board

Alonzo G. Grace, *Hartford, Connecticut, State Com-*  
missioner of Education

Fred M. Hunter, *Eugene, Oregon, Chancellor, Ore-*  
gon State System of Higher Education

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# THE NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL SURVEY

## STUDY COMMITTEES

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Boucher, C. S., Lincoln	Mitchell, J. C., Lincoln
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Cushing, H. L., Kearney	Poucher, W. T., Tekamah
Ferguson, O. J., Lincoln	Reimund, Harry, Omaha
Fulmer, C. A., Lincoln	Rosene, W. A., Lincoln
Gates, C. Ray, Grand Island	Rosenlof, G. W., Lincoln
Gunderson, L. E., Lincoln	Shamp, Gladys, Lincoln
Haynes, Rowland, Omaha	Thompson, T. J., Lincoln
Huse, Gene, Norfolk	Watson, R. A., Hastings
Kinney, V. B., Lincoln	Williams, F. C., Lincoln
Lefler, M. C., Lincoln	Wieland, E. M., Clay Center

### STUDY COMMITTEE NUMBER 1

"What jobs are available in Nebraska?"

J. R. Jewell, *Chairman*

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Anderson, H. W., Omaha	Haynes, Rowland, Omaha
Arnold, Frank, Fullerton	Lawrence, J. E., Lincoln
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Bowdern, Rev. Thomas, Omaha	Pitzer, W. H., Nebraska City
Bowers, F. E., Lincoln	Powell, Mrs. G. F., Kearney
Brewer, Roy, Grand Island	Prince, Mrs. Harold, G. I.
Burkhardt, Allen P., Norfolk	Seggern, Emil Von, West Point
Casler, G. V., Lincoln	Seitz, J. C., Omaha
Correll, J. J., Lincoln	Senning, J. P., Lincoln
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Zumwinkle, O. H., Lincoln	

### STUDY COMMITTEE NUMBER 3

High School Phase

"Why do pupils drop out of high school and in what numbers?"

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Carden, Rex, Auburn	Reimund, Harry, Omaha
Harnly, Paul, Grand Island	Scott, W. E., Fairbury
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Weigel, H. F., Lincoln	

STUDY COMMITTEE NUMBER 3

College Phase

"Student mortality in Nebraska colleges and universities."

T. J. Thompson, *Chairman*

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Johnson, J. R., McCook	Weyer, F. E., Hastings

STUDY COMMITTEE NUMBER 4

High School Phase

"Employment status of high school graduates."

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Thompson, C. Y., West Point	

STUDY COMMITTEE NUMBER 4

College Phase

"Employment status of college graduates."

O. J. Ferguson, *Chairman*

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STUDY COMMITTEE NUMBER 5

"Teacher certification and supply and demand for teachers."

W. A. Rosene, *Chairman*

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Bloom, W. C., Lexington	Lindberg, P. M., Wahoo
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Burnham, A. L., Lincoln	Pate, W. R., Peru
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Burrage, D. G., Crete	Reed, A. A., Lincoln
Casey, Mother Helen, Omaha	Rulkoetter, A. H., Lincoln
Coleman, M. I., Scottsbluff	Slee, Mary Alice, York
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Hansen, P. V., Blair	Clements, S. L., Peru
Henzlik, F. E., Lincoln	Anderson, H. W., Omaha

STUDY COMMITTEE NUMBER 6

"Support of higher education in Nebraska."

L. E. Gunderson, *Chairman*

STUDY COMMITTEE NUMBER 7

"Duplication and overlapping in State-owned institutions of higher education."

Gene Huse, *Chairman*

STUDY COMMITTEE NUMBER 8

"What is the State doing to equalize educational opportunity and is the present district organization economical?"

C. Ray Gates, *Chairman*

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Bell, O. A., Bellevue	Watkins, S. N., Newman Grove
Maclay, F. D., Neligh	Wiltse, E. W., York
McCulla, H. F., Lincoln	Young, J. P., David City
Mitchell, P. H., Arapahoe	Wolfe, Asa, McCook
Reed, W. O., Nebraska City	

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W. H. Mengel, Planning Engineer

John F. Wenstrand, Statistician

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Nelson W. McKee, Technician

E. F. Hale, Technician

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W. P. 4095

Official Project 465-81-3-121

# State of Nebraska

## NEBRASKA STATE PLANNING BOARD

Lincoln, Nebraska  
April 29, 1940

To His Excellency, R. L. Cochran  
Governor of the State of Nebraska

My dear Governor:

I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of the Nebraska State Planning Board outlining an educational program for the State of Nebraska.

This report is based upon the fact-finding studies of volunteer committees of Nebraska educators and upon the experience of those Nebraska educators, plus the experience of six out-of-state consultants, two of whom are native Nebraskans. I wish to call your special attention to the fact that the co-operation of over 100 Nebraska educators working in study committees plus many others co-operating in furnishing data for the fact-finding studies made possible the conduct of the survey at a minimum cost to the State of Nebraska. The co-operation of the Work Projects Administration in furnishing clerical assistance, and some materials aided us to organize and analyze the mass of data collected in our fact-finding studies. The National Resources Planning Board and the U. S. Office of Education contributed valuable consultant and advisory services.

You will recall that the primary purpose the Planning Board had in mind when proposing a survey of the educational needs of the State was to determine what the educational program of the State should be in order to ascertain the building needs of State institutions of higher education in terms of that program. The Board is firmly convinced that an adequate, economical building program to provide efficiently for present and future needs must be based on a unified educational program for the entire State and individual institutional programs designed to take care of their respective portions of that unified program.

Your attention is also invited to the fact that the members of the Planning Board charged with the general responsibility for this survey have devoted many days to the unselfish discharge of the duties they voluntarily assumed.

NEBRASKA STATE PLANNING BOARD  
A. C. Tilley  
State Engineer and Chairman

# State of Nebraska

## NEBRASKA STATE PLANNING BOARD

Lincoln, Nebraska  
April 29, 1940

Mr. A. C. Tilley  
State Engineer and Chairman  
Nebraska State Planning Board  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Tilley:

The report of the Planning Board's Educational Survey Committee is submitted herewith.

The body of the report explains in detail the organization and the procedures of the survey. Further emphasis should be made of the fact, however, that the success of the survey was made possible only through the generous co-operation of many individuals, organizations, agencies, and institutions. Educational agencies and institutions from all levels, both publicly and privately controlled, co-operated in supplying the detailed information needed for the several factual studies. The various study committees made up largely of college deans, department heads, the school superintendents and principals, over 100 in all, gave freely of their time and experience.

The United States Office of Education and the National Resources Planning Board furnished valuable consultant service. Dr. Fred J. Kelly, Advisor to the Planning Board, and Dr. Fred M. Hunter, one of the consultants for the survey, are both native Nebraskans with teaching experience in the State after graduating from the University of Nebraska. Dr. Kelly is now Chief of the Division of Higher Education of the United States Office of Education and Dr. Hunter is Chancellor of the Oregon State System of Higher Education.

Through the cooperation of the Work Projects Administration much of the clerical and statistical work and the necessary supervision of such work was performed on O. P. number 465-81-3-121.

The report of the Educational Survey Committee on Findings and Recommendations has proved invaluable to this committee in its labors of preparing the accompanying report. Most all of the recommendations concerning educational policies and programs have been adapted



directly from the Educational Survey report. *Your Committee has departed somewhat from the recommendations of the survey committee relative to questions of State aid. The committee has refused to make any recommendations relative to tax sources because of its belief that the question of the method of raising needed taxes and the amount to be raised are a legislative matter and must be decided periodically to conform to existing conditions at the time of appropriation and taking into account the many other activities that likewise must be financed.*

Economy in operation has been considered by us as being of equal importance with efficiency. Because of this fact, the recommended program has been designed purposely so that it can be put into effect progressively and in those places first where facilities are available. By so doing, it would appear that greater efficiency and economies would result. During the past decade all branches of business have found it necessary and desirable to effect economies in operation after careful self appraisals by reducing overhead and merging activities wherever possible. The supporters and administrators of the schools should also be alert in carrying out plans whereby economies could be practiced without curtailing the services offered. *It is certain that several of the most vital features of the recommended program can be accomplished with a definite saving to the State.*

Over the period of two years in which consideration has been given to the educational problems in this State, *your committee has been indelibly impressed by the fact that high school courses of study have been designed as preparatory to college work and that college work is designed to prepare the student for a profession. On the other hand preparation for many of the occupations that are available in this State has been generally neglected. In view of which, a reorganization in the secondary school program and the setting up of terminal courses in the four and six-year high schools is indicated.*

This committee believes that ways and means have been pointed out to the local officers of the rural school districts and the small high school districts to effect economies which would result in lower mill levies and improved instruction and curricular offerings. The action to effect these economies and improvements must come from the local people and their school officials.

In their recommendations for the State Institutions of Higher Education, the committee has been motivated by a desire to find ways of obtaining and maintaining an efficient and economical educational

system that will give the best possible results for the money available. Several of the fact-finding studies have pointed out costly overlapping and duplication of functions. Economies in operation have been considered to be of fundamental importance to the State. It should not be overlooked, however, that in obtaining these economies, an opportunity is afforded each institution at the same time to do its share effectively in meeting certain of the State's needs rather than attempting so many phases of the whole program that its resources are spread too thin for the highest achievement.

Very truly yours,

PLANNING BOARD EDUCATIONAL SURVEY  
COMMITTEE

Gene Huse, *Chairman*

Arthur Melville

J. G. Mothersead

Wm. H. Smith

Carl H. Swanson