

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

2012/2013 DIVERSITY PLAN

GOAL: The goal of the diversity plan is to annually increase the socioeconomic diversity of enrollment at each grade level in each school building within the learning community until such enrollment reflects the average socioeconomic diversity of the entire enrollment of the learning community.

I. STRATEGY: Administer the Open Enrollment process to be utilized by the eleven member school districts of the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties (Learning Community) in accepting Open Enrollment applicants (§ 79-2104).

A. *Maintain procedures and criteria by which each member school district shall establish a maximum capacity for each school building within the Learning Community.*

- i. Facilities, staff and programs are the general factors recognized in determining a maximum capacity of a school building. Growth issues are considered through recognition of member school district policies pertaining to instructional staff, class size and unassigned instructional space. Specific criteria consistent with the general factors are set forth in the Enrollment Capacity Data Sheet Instructions (ATTACHMENT A).
- ii. Adopt the Enrollment Capacity Data Sheet (ATTACHMENT B) for use by member school districts, which sets forth the specific criteria and procedures by which member school districts identify a maximum capacity for each school building.
 - 1) The Enrollment Capacity Data Sheet includes school building data sheets for elementary, middle and high school buildings and directions and definitions for use by the member school district as it completes the applicable school building data sheet.
 - 2) The column titled "Enrollment Capacity" on the school building data sheet identifies the maximum capacity for the designated school building for the upcoming school year. Space will be provided to note unique circumstances having an impact on enrollment capacity.
 - 3) The Enrollment Capacity Data Sheet for each school building shall be signed and dated by an authorized representative of the member school district before it is submitted to the Learning Community.
 - 4) Provide procedures and definitions specific to elementary, middle and high school buildings by which member school districts will identify a maximum capacity number for each school building.
 - a. Elementary Enrollment Capacity Data Sheet includes:
 - i. Enrollment capacity is a function of the number of assigned grade level classrooms and allowable class size.
 - ii. Building capacity in elementary schools includes grade level capacity.
 - iii. Rooms utilized for resource, supplemental instruction or specialized curriculum instruction does not add to building capacity.
 - iv. Rooms utilized for special education needs when service is provided to students for the majority of their school day are included as capacity generating spaces.

- v. Projected enrollment cells for one year and five year projections are provided. The five year projection column is optional based on a member school district's projection capabilities.
- b. Middle School Enrollment Capacity Data Sheet includes:
- i. Middle school facilities have middle school team configurations. The educational program in a teamed middle school is typically a combination of core curriculum instruction in combination with exploratory or elective course offerings.
 - ii. Enrollment capacity is a function of the number of assigned classrooms and core curriculum teams, allowable class size and scheduled teaching periods for instruction.
 - iii. Building capacity in middle schools includes grade level capacity.
 - iv. Rooms utilized for special education needs when service is provided to students for the majority of their school day are included as capacity generating spaces.
 - v. Rooms utilized for resource, supplemental instruction or specialized curriculum instruction do not add to building capacity.
 - vi. Projected enrollment cells for one year and three year projections are provided. The three year projection column is optional based on a member school district's projection capabilities.
- c. High School Enrollment Capacity Data Sheet includes:
- i. Enrollment capacity for high schools and buildings utilized as combined junior/senior high schools is a function of the number and assigned use of classrooms, average classroom enrollment and the number of class periods each day the room is scheduled for instruction.
 - ii. Rooms utilized for special education programs are considered capacity generating spaces if they are utilized as a regularly scheduled classroom.
 - iii. Computer labs, media centers, gymnasium areas and other special function areas are considered capacity generating spaces if they are utilized for an instructional function for the majority of the school day.
 - iv. Projected enrollment cells for one year and three year projections are provided. The three year projection column is optional based on a member school district's projection capabilities.

B. Identify the order of intake for Open Enrollment.

- i. First preference is given to siblings of students who will be enrolled as continuing students in a school building or program for the school year for which enrollment is sought.
- ii. Second preference is given to students that contribute to the socioeconomic diversity of enrollment at each building as defined in statute:
 - 1) A student who does not qualify for free or reduced-price lunch when, based upon the certification pursuant to § 79-2110, the school building the student will attend has more students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch than the average percentage of such students in all school buildings in the Learning Community.

- 2) A student who qualifies for free or reduced-price lunch when, based upon the certification pursuant to § 79-2110, the school building the student will attend has fewer students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch than the average percentage of such students in all school buildings in the Learning Community.
- iii. Third preference is given to students who do not contribute to the socioeconomic diversity of such school building up to the remaining capacity of such school building.
- iv. Option Enrollment
 - 1) Option enrollment applicants who are siblings of students who will be enrolled as continuing students in such school building or program for the school year for which enrollment is sought are processed under the first preference in *Strategy I.B.i.*
 - 2) The Learning Community will work with member school districts regarding additional issues related to Option Enrollment.

C. Maintain and implement a uniform form and instructions for applicants (ATTACHMENT C).

- i. The Open Enrollment application will be approved by the Learning Community and distributed to member schools districts on or before October 31st.
- ii. Member school districts may attach building specific information to the Open Enrollment application, but may not amend the content of the Open Enrollment application or request additional information from the applicant.
- iii. The Open Enrollment application will be made available to the general public by member school districts on or before October 31st.
- iv. Completed Open Enrollment applications shall be submitted to the applicable member school district in accordance with the deadlines set forth in *Strategy II.A.*
 - 1) If all school buildings identified on the Open Enrollment application submitted to a member school district are at maximum capacity but said district has school buildings offering the same grades which have remaining capacity, the member school district to which the Open Enrollment application was submitted shall contact the parent/legal guardian/emancipated minor and identify those school buildings within said district which have capacity, which applicant may substitute for one or more school buildings identified on the submitted Open Enrollment application.
 - 2) Socioeconomic Diversity Qualification
 - a. In order to be considered for the socioeconomic diversity intake preference, parents/legal guardians/emancipated minors must provide requested information on the Open Enrollment application to determine, as of the date of submission, whether the applicant would qualify for free or reduced-price lunch based upon the current federal income guidelines for free or reduced-price lunch. If requested information is not provided on the Open Enrollment application, the applicant shall be presumed not to qualify for free or reduced-price lunch for purposes of Open Enrollment. (*Strategy I.B.ii.*)
 - b. Each year a member school district shall randomly select 3% of Open Enrollment applications received by the school district and selected for Open Enrollment for verification of free and reduced lunch or non-free and reduced lunch status. The Learning Community will work with the member school districts on this verification process and timeline.

- v. Member school districts must submit an entire copy of all Open Enrollment applications received by said district, with Section 3 thereof completed indicating the member school district's decision on said application, to the Learning Community and resident school district on or before April 5th of each year. Copies of all applications submitted subsequent to the March 15 deadline shall also be submitted to the Learning Community and resident school districts with Section 3 completed by the submitting member school district as they are processed.

D. Maintain consistent selection and operational guidelines for Open Enrollment.

- i. For schools other than focus schools and programs other than focus programs:
 - 1) If the projected enrollment of a school building for the following school year is less than the maximum capacity established for such school building pursuant to the Enrollment Capacity Data Sheet, the member school district shall admit students who have applied to attend such school building through Open Enrollment in the order of intake set forth in *Strategy I.B* up to the remaining capacity of the school building.
 - 2) If the number of students of the same preference who have applied to attend a school building exceeds the remaining capacity of said building, the member school district shall select amongst applicants of the same preference by random selection up to the remaining capacity of said building.
 - 3) If applications received for a school building exceeds the remaining capacity of a school building, the member school district shall establish a "wait list" order for all "excess" applications by random selection. Enrollment slots which become available shall be filled from the "wait list" in order and in accordance with the Open Enrollment intake order as set forth in *Strategy I.B*.
 - 4) A member school district may, at its discretion, accept applicants in excess of the maximum capacity of the school building in question in order of intake preference as set forth in *Strategy I.B*.
- ii. For focus schools and focus programs established through the Learning Community:
 - 1) Enrollment in each focus school or focus program shall be designed to reflect the socioeconomic diversity of the Learning Community as a whole. §79-2110(3)
 - 2) Selection of students for focus schools or focus programs shall be on a random basis from two pools of applicants: students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch and students who do not qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.
 - 3) If, after selection of students for a focus school or focus program in accordance with this *Strategy I.D* is completed, capacity remains in a focus school or focus program, the member school district which operates said focus school or focus program shall randomly select applicants up to the remaining capacity of the focus school building or focus program or until all applications have been processed.
- iii. Acceptance or rejection of an application by a member school district shall be in accordance with the procedures and criteria set forth in §79-2110(2)(a).
- iv. When an Open Enrollment application is accepted, the family/legal guardian/emancipated minor in question must notify the Open Enrollment member school district of the acceptance of the Open Enrollment slot for the applicant on or before April 25th on a form provided by said member school district. Said notice must be postmarked by April 25th or personally delivered to the member school district by 4:00 p.m. on April 25th. If such notice of acceptance for an applicant is not received by April 25th, the member school district in question shall make at least two documented attempts to contact the family/legal guardian/emancipated minor in order to determine the status of the application. If Open Enrollment applications were submitted to and approved by more than one

member school district, only one Open Enrollment slot may be accepted per applicant. If a member school district either does not receive a notice of acceptance of an Open Enrollment slot or is unable to make contact with the family/legal guardian/emancipated minor by May 1st, the Open Enrollment slot for the applicant shall be determined vacant and if applicable, shall be filled from the “wait list” set forth in *Strategy I.D.i.3*.

E. Educate member school districts on Open Enrollment transportation requirements.

- i. The school board of a member school district shall provide free transportation for a student who resides in the Learning Community and attends school in such school district if (i) the student is enrolling in a school building in such school district in accordance with this *Strategy I*, qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches, and lives more than one mile from the school to which he or she transfers, (ii) student is enrolling in a school building in such school district in accordance with this *Strategy I*, is a student who contributes to the socioeconomic diversity of enrollment at the school building he or she attends, and lives more than one mile from the school to which he or she transfers, (iii) the student is attending a focus school or program and lives more than one mile from the school building housing the focus school or program, or (iv) the student is attending a magnet school or program and lives more than one mile from the magnet school or the school housing the magnet program, as set forth in § 79-611(2).
- ii. A member school district is not prohibited from providing transportation to any intra-district student.
- iii. A transportation allowance may be paid to the parent, custodial parent, or guardian of students qualifying for free transportation in accordance with § 79-611.

II. STRATEGY: Adhere, communicate, monitor and respond to compliance of procedural deadlines established by the Learning Community Diversity Plan and deadlines noted in statute:

A. Deadlines are as follows:

- i. On or before October 31 -
 - 1) The date by which Open Enrollment applications for next school year shall be made available to the general public by member school districts.
- ii. On or before February 15th –
 - 1) Deadline for requests from parents/legal guardians of students who will complete the grades offered at a school building outside their attendance area prior to the following school year to provide notice to the school board of the member school district containing such school building if such student will attend another school building within such district as a continuing student and which school building such student would prefer to attend. (§ 79-2110)
- iii. On or before March 1st –
 - 1) Deadline for member school districts to provide notice to parents/legal guardians stating which school building or buildings the student shall be allowed to attend in such member school district as a continuing student for the following school year. If the student resides within the member school district, the notice shall include the school building offering the grade the student will be entering for the following school year in the attendance area where the student resides. This deadline does not apply to focus schools or programs. (§ 79-2110)
 - 2) Deadline for member school districts to complete and submit an Enrollment Capacity Data Worksheet for each school building in said district to the Learning Community Coordinating

Council, reporting the maximum capacity and total projected enrollment, including intra-district transfers, if any, before Open Enrollment for such school building for the following school year.

iv. On or before March 15th –

- 1) Deadline for completion and submission to member school district of Open Enrollment application by parents/legal guardians/emancipated minors requesting to attend a school building outside their attendance area. (§ 79-2110)

v. On or before April 1st –

- 1) Deadline for member school districts to accept or reject Open Enrollment applications. (§ 79-2110)

vi. On or before April 5th –

- 1) Deadline for member school districts to notify parents/legal guardians/emancipated minors in writing of the acceptance or rejection of an Open Enrollment application.
- 2) Deadline for member school district to submit copies (with Section 3 completed) of all Open Enrollment applications to resident school districts and the Learning Community.

vii. On or before April 25th –

- 1) Deadline by which families/legal guardians/emancipated minors, on a form provided by the accepting member school district, must notify the Open Enrollment School District of acceptance of the Open Enrollment slot.

viii. On or before May 1st –

- 1) Date on which an Open Enrollment slot may be declared vacant by a member school district in accordance with *Strategy I.D.iv.*

ix. On or before September 1st –

- 1) Deadline for member school districts to submit annual Open Enrollment reports on a form provided by the Learning Community (electronically and in hard copy) of all applications received, including the number of students who applied at each grade level at each building, the number of students accepted at each grade level at each building, the number of such students that contributed to the socioeconomic diversity that applied and were accepted, the number of applications denied and the reason(s) for each denial, and other such information as requested by the Learning Community Coordinating Council. (§ 79-2110)

x. Moving, emergency or hardship

- 1) An applicant who moves to a new residence within the Learning Community after April 1st may apply on an Open Enrollment form directly to the school board of a member school district within the Learning Community to attend a school building outside the attendance area where the student resides. Said application must be submitted within ninety days after the applicant moves to the new residence. (§79-2110(5))
- 2) Parents/guardians of a student who wishes to change school buildings for emergency or hardship reasons may apply on an Open Enrollment form directly to the school board of a member school district within the Learning Community at any time for the student to attend a school building outside of the attendance area where the student resides. (§ 79-2110 (6))

- xi. Receiving member school districts shall provide notice to resident school districts and Learning Community of accepted Open Enrollment slots through submission of copies of Open Enrollment forms noting approval status as such approval is determined.

B. Unless otherwise indicated, compliance with a deadline shall be achieved by either a postmark by the deadline date or by personal delivery to the required recipient by 4:00 p.m. on the deadline date set forth in Strategy II.A.

C. Communicate with member school district superintendents the deadlines established by statute and by the Learning Community Diversity Plan and the compliance expectations.

III. STRATEGY: Explore focus and magnet schools, programs and pathways.

A. Gather information from each Achievement Subcouncil to identify and describe focus and magnet schools, programs and pathways currently available.

- i. Make this information available to the public
- ii. Learning Community approved focus programs, focus schools, magnet schools, and pathways shall be as described in §79-769

B. Research unmet and high demand/interest program needs within the Learning Community.

- i. Learning Community shall develop and conduct a Community Survey to gather information regarding standard baseline questions that impact decisions regarding focus schools, programs and pathways
 - 1) Learning Community will engage an established survey company to develop and conduct Community Surveys through a variety of methodologies, which may include focus groups, not less than every five years, or as determined necessary, to maintain data reflective of current community interests, needs and socioeconomic demographics
 - 2) Such survey will gauge unmet and high demand/interest program needs within the Learning Community
 - 3) The survey may include families, business community, institutions of higher education and other identified groups in the process
 - 4) Surveys results will be able to be grouped and sorted by Subcouncil District so as to inform Achievement Subcouncils of interests and needs related to focus schools, focus programs and magnet schools within their geographic area as related to *Strategy IV.C*
 - 5) Survey results shall be reported to the Learning Community Coordinating Council, member school districts and the general public
 - 6) Member school districts may conduct additional surveys around a specific proposal for a Learning Community approved focus school, focus program, or pathway
- ii. Collect data regarding waiting lists for current programmatic offerings with limited capacity, including number of students on waiting list and where (geographically) the highest demand for specific programs exists.
- iii. Work with member school districts to identify high demand programs and expand same into member school districts where high interest is demonstrated.

C. Maintain a process to work with member school districts interested in opening a Learning Community approved focus school or focus program (Focus School/Program) or pathway.

- i. Establish and maintain criteria and processes for review, consideration and action on a proposal for a new Focus School/Program (Focus Proposal) submitted to the Learning Community, either individually or in collaboration
 - 1) Overview of process for Focus Proposals that include a request for funding through the Learning Community Capital Project Levy (Focus Proposal)
 - a. Provide a timeline and submission process to member school district interested in submitting a Focus Proposal (ATTACHMENT D). Submission process includes the following steps:
 - i. Interested member school district submits a Letter of Intent to Learning Community
 1. Letter of Intent should be sent after a member school district's Board of Education has taken official action to approve the member school district's request to move forward with submitting a Focus Proposal and shall certify such action was taken by the Board of Education
 2. Letter of Intent shall be a summary and sample of the information provided to the member school district's Board of Education in their action to approve submission of the Focus Proposal and shall include such information as:
 - a) Description of concept
 - b) Why the concept was chosen
 - c) How concept contributes to socioeconomic diversity and closing the student achievement gap
 - d) Letter of Intent shall include an invitation for the Learning Community's Diversity Plan Implementation Task Force (DTF) to appoint a task force member to be an informational member of the member school district's committee working on the Focus Proposal
 - ii. When possible, the DTF shall appoint a member from the Task Force who represents a Subcouncil District which contains the member school district submitting the Focus Proposal. DTF member's responsibilities include:
 1. Providing information relating to Focus School/Program statutes
 2. Providing progress updates on the Focus Proposal to the DTF and Learning Community Coordinating Council meetings; provided, however, that member school district information which is not within the public domain shall not be disclosed at a Learning Community Coordinating Council meeting
 - iii. Member school district shall present its Focus Proposal to DTF no later than the June 30th of the year preceding the budget year during which the member school district wants its Focus Proposal to begin receiving Capital Project Levy proceeds.
 - iv. Focus School Proposal shall be submitted to the Advisory Committee in accordance to § 79-2104.01 no later than July 31st of the year preceding the budget year during which the member school district wants to begin receiving Capital Project Levy proceeds.

- v. DTF will recommend approval or disapproval of Focus Proposals to the Learning Community Coordinating Council no later than the August 31st of the year preceding the budget year during which the member school district wants to begin receiving Capital Project Levy proceeds.
 - vi. A member school district shall make a formal presentation of its Focus Proposal to the Learning Community Coordinating Council in conjunction with the DTF recommendation no later than the August 31st of the year preceding the budget year during which the member school district wants to begin receiving Capital Project Levy proceeds.
 - vii. The DTF recommendation on a Focus Proposal will be presented as an action item for the Learning Community Coordinating Council no later than the September 30th prior to the budget year during which the member school district wants to begin receiving Capital Project Levy proceeds.
 - viii. Capital Project Levy approval, if any, shall be contingent on the member school district's demonstrating the ability to generate its portion of the needed funding both for capital project funding needs and operations by the June 1st prior to the next September 1st budget adoption deadline and reaching a binding agreement with the Learning Community pursuant to which the district agrees to conform to the terms of Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-2111 and all other applicable statutes
- 2) Overview of process for Focus Proposals that do not include a request for funding through the Learning Community Capital Project Levy
- a. Provide a timeline and submission process to member school district interested in submitting a Focus Proposal (ATTACHMENT D). Submission process includes the following steps:
 - i. Interested member school district submits a Letter of Intent to Learning Community
 - 1. Letter of Intent should be sent after a member school district's Board of Education has taken official action to approve the member school district's request to move forward with submitting a Focus Proposal and shall certify such action was taken by the Board of Education
 - 2. Letter of Intent shall be a summary and sample of the information provided to the member school district's Board of Education in their action to approve submission of the Focus Proposal and shall include such information as:
 - a) Description of concept
 - b) Why the concept was chosen
 - c) How concept contributes to socioeconomic diversity and closing the student achievement gap
 - d) Letter of Intent shall include an invitation for the Learning Community's Diversity Plan Implementation Task Force (DTF) to appoint a task force member to be an informational member of the member school district's committee working on the Focus Proposal
 - ii. When possible, the DTF shall appoint a member from the Task Force who also represents a Subcouncil District which contains the member school district submitting the Focus Proposal. DTF member's responsibilities include:
 - 1. Providing information relating to Focus School/Program statutes

2. Providing progress updates on the Focus Proposal to the DTF and Learning Community Coordinating Council meetings; provided, however, that member school district information which is not within the public domain shall not be disclosed at a Learning Community Coordinating Council meeting
 - iii. Member school district shall present its Focus Proposal to DTF no later than the July 31st of the calendar year preceding the academic year during which the member school district intends to commence Focus School/Program operations.
 - iv. Focus School Proposal shall be submitted to the Advisory Committee in accordance to § 79-2104.01 no later than August 31st of the calendar year preceding the academic year during which the member school district intends to commence Focus School/Program operations.
 - v. DTF will recommend approval or disapproval of Focus Proposals to the Learning Community Coordinating Council no later than the August 31st of the calendar year preceding the academic year during which the member school district intends to commence Focus School/Program operations.
 - vi. A member school district shall make a formal presentation of its Focus Proposal to the Learning Community Coordinating Council in conjunction with the DTF recommendation no later than the August 31st of the calendar year preceding the academic year during which the member school district intends to commence Focus School/Program operations.
 - vii. The DTF recommendation on a Focus Proposal will be presented as an action item for the Learning Community no later than the September 30th of the calendar year preceding the academic year during which the member school district intends to commence Focus School/Program operations.
- 3) A Focus Proposal shall include, but not be limited to, the following details and information:
- a. Data demonstrating strong community support and interest in the Focus Proposal including its appeal to a socioeconomically diverse student population
 - b. A budget detailing:
 - i. The projected five (5) year operating budget and description of funding sources
 - ii. If a Focus Proposal requesting Capital Project Levy support, details regarding such Capital Project Levy request including the estimated capital expenditure budget and how this budget was created.
 1. A detailed timeline of the Focus Proposal from development to opening of facilities
 2. A detailed description of the Focus Proposal's sustainability plan
 3. Whether member school district will consider payment of Capital Project Levy monies over multiple budget cycles
 - iii. Funding formula for the Focus Proposal including funding sources the member school district will be pursuing for its portion of any capital project expenditures

1. *Note:* member school district needs to take into consideration that funds to be provided under an adopted budget are not primarily realized until the following April and August and note in their funding formula how this issue will be addressed.
- c. A description of the facility location and how the location will enhance participation in the Focus Proposal
 - d. A description of potential partners in the Focus Proposal, such as other school district partners, business community, college or university
 - e. A proposed ten (10) year operating plan which shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:
 - i. Curriculum framework
 - ii. Goals for reducing achievement gap
 - iii. Goals for increasing socioeconomic diversity
 - iv. Enrollment Projections
 - v. Personnel needs and training
 - vi. Potential partnerships
 - vii. Accreditation Plan
 - viii. Vision of the pathway potential of the Focus Proposal if appropriate
 1. If the Focus Proposal begins as the high school level, member school district shall address how they will prepare potential students for the goals and objectives of the Focus Proposal
 - ix. Marketing plan details of member school district's Focus Proposal including, but not limited to, member school district's outreach strategy to a diverse socioeconomic student population and marketing plan budget
 - x. Evaluation plan of Focus Proposal
 - xi. The number of students the Focus Proposal is targeting to serve
 - xii. A description of how the member school district will comply with all statutes related to Focus Schools/Programs including, but not limited to, the following:
 1. §77-3442 (2)(h)
 2. §79-1007.05
 3. §79-2104 (6) & (7)
 4. §79-2110 (3)
 - a) *Note:* current Open Enrollment statutes do not contemplate a sibling preference. Any statutory language to include this preference would need to ensure the sibling preference is still within context of meeting diversity standards

5. §79-2111 (1)
 6. §79-611
- ii. Establish and maintain criteria and processes for review, consideration and action on proposals submitted by member school districts to have an existing school or program recognized as a Learning Community Focus School/Program (District Focus School/Program)
 - 1) Overview of process for District Focus Proposal
 - a. Submission process includes the following steps:
 - i. Member school districts submitting District Focus Proposal that include a request for funding through the Learning Community Capital Project Levy shall follow the process as laid out in *Strategy III.i.1 & 3*
 - ii. Member school districts submitting District Focus Proposal that does not include a request for funding through the Learning Community Capital Project Levy shall follow the process as laid out in *Strategy III.i.2 & 3*
 - iii. Additionally, such District Focus School/Program Proposals shall include:
 1. History of District Focus School/Program
 2. How District Focus School/Program contributes to socioeconomic diversity and closing the student achievement gap
 3. Description of the capacity of the District Focus School/Program to expand and meet the socioeconomic diversity goals as described in §79-2110
 4. A description of how the member school district will comply with all statutes related to Focus Schools/Programs including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a) §77-3442 (2)(h)
 - b) §79-1007.05
 - c) §79-2104 (6) & (7)
 - d) §79-2110 (3)
 - i. *Note:* current Open Enrollment statutes do not contemplate a sibling preference. Any statutory language to include this preference would need to ensure the sibling preference is still within context of meeting diversity standards
 - e) §79-2111 (1)
 - f) §79-611

D. Promote a collaborative approach between Learning Community member school districts and other sectors of the community to develop focus or magnet schools, programs or pathways.

IV. STRATEGY: Create and implement, in collaboration with member school districts, promotional efforts to encourage Open Enrollment participation, provide information about school buildings in the Learning Community, and regularly monitor and evaluate Open Enrollment results.

A. *Annually conduct fairs [§79-2104 (9)], forums or other venues to market and inform the public about Open Enrollment and educational opportunities in school buildings within the Learning Community.*

- i. Work with other community partners in planning and promoting student choices through Open Enrollment
 - 1) Promotional efforts may include but are not limited to:
 - a. School fairs
 - b. Website promotional efforts
 - c. Direct mail/Flyers/Posters
 - d. PSAs
 - e. Paid advertising
 - f. Documents produced in more than one language
 - g. Information regarding transportation qualifications and options
 - h. Provide informational support regarding completing and sending in Open Enrollment applications.
 - 2) Provide information regarding other complementary components to Open Enrollment and efforts to impact student achievement
 - a. Information regarding additional programmatic offerings before/after school or during the summer months through ELCs and other agencies/supported programming
 - b. Information regarding specialized services including special education and English Language Learner services.

B. *In order to permit parents/legal guardians to make informed decisions with regard to Open Enrollment, member school districts shall make available on their websites and in response to requests from the general public on or before February 15th certain information for each school building operated by the member school district.*

- i. Required information for each school building includes, but is not limited to:
 - 1) Grades offered
 - 2) Special programmatic offerings by building including:
 - a. Special education services offered
 - b. ELL services offered
 - c. Special instructional programs or methods of instruction

- d. Programs targeted to advanced or high ability learners
- e. Magnet, focus, pathway, or other specialized programming offered within a building
- 3) For elementary schools, the duration of kindergarten offered (half day or full day)
- 4) For high schools, the scheduling model used
- 5) School calendar including instructional days
- 6) Information regarding accessing the Nebraska Department of Education website and the school performance information contained within that website.
- ii. The member school district shall make available on their websites and to the Learning Community the required information set forth in this *Strategy IV.B* on or before February 15th for dissemination to the general public.

C. Gather data annually regarding socioeconomic diversity. This data shall be provided to the Learning Community Coordinating Council consistent with state and federal privacy regulations for all member school districts and to Achievement Subcouncils for those member school districts or buildings within their geographic area. Diversity Plan reports are to reflect the diversity needs of each Achievement Subcouncil and of the Learning Community as a whole.

- i. Member School District Reports include:
 - 1) § 79-201 (5) - Truancy Report
 - 2) § 79-527 - Dropouts; long-term suspension, expulsion, or excessive absenteeism; contact with law enforcement officials;
 - 3) § 79-1013 (1) and § 79-1014 (1)- LEP/Poverty Plans
 - 4) Other data as requested
- ii. Nebraska Department of Education Reports include:
 - 1) § 79-528 (2) – End of the School Year Annual Statistical Summary Report
 - 2) § 79-528 (4) – Fall Membership Report
 - 3) § 79-528 (3) – Annual Financial Data
- iii. Connect socioeconomic diversity data to student achievement data and monitor and report how increased socioeconomic diversity is impacting student achievement.

D. Respond to the data gathered and prepare reports for the Learning Community Coordinating Council and on or before December 1st to the Education Committee of the Nebraska State Legislature. (§79-2104.02 and §79-2118)

V. STRATEGY: Exercise ongoing oversight, administration, evaluation and modification, as necessary, of the Diversity Plan.

A. Continuing administration and oversight of the Diversity Plan and the implementation thereof by the member school districts.

- i. Create a standing subcommittee of the Learning Community Coordinating Council to implement *Strategy V*. Consider the creation of one or more advisory committees to the subcommittee that may include non-council members and representatives of various interest groups and organizations such as, but not limited to: parents, teachers, business community representation.
- ii. Seek input from the Advisory Committee in accordance with §79-2104.01 regarding issues related to Open Enrollment, focus schools and programs, and other such items related to the Diversity Plan as requested.

B. Evaluate the reports provided to the Learning Community by member school districts and the Nebraska Department of Education.

C. Hold public forums addressing the Learning Community Diversity Plan.

- i. Each Achievement Subcouncil shall at least annually hold a forum to address special diversity needs of its community and report findings to the Learning Community Coordinating Council or a designated subcommittee.

D. Evaluate the Diversity Plan and identify modifications or revisions thereto to achieve the Goal.

- i. Establish a process for Achievement Subcouncils to provide ongoing input regarding provisions relating to each Achievement Subcouncil district.
- ii. Identify and work with the Legislation and Policy Subcommittee to pursue legislation necessary to achieve the Goal.

E. Continue to research and evaluate programs and services relating to increasing socioeconomic diversity offered by member school districts and other Nebraska school districts as well as potential models operating in other regions nationwide.

F. Report on the progress of the Diversity Plan to the general public and other required and involved entities.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEARNING COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL IN FURTHERANCE OF THE DIVERSITY PLAN:

- 1) Support legislation to ensure funding for transportation of students who contribute to the socioeconomic diversity of Learning Community school buildings.