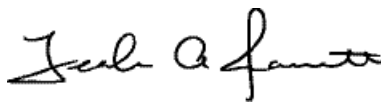




**Monitoring Report**  
**EL-02 Access to Education**  
**October 9, 2025**

I hereby present my monitoring report on the **Executive Limitations Policy EL-02: Access to Education** according to monitoring report schedule (BPD-04). I certify that the information contained in this report is true and represents compliance with a reasonable interpretation of all aspects of the policy unless specifically stated otherwise.

Signed   
Leah A. Barrett, President

Date 6 October 2025

**The President shall not allow conditions that unnecessarily restrict student or potential student access to education.**

INTERPRETATION

Student access to education requires an awareness of the College's admissions and financial aid processes, the effectiveness of its registration process, and satisfaction with the academic advising and counseling programs and a perception that these processes are free from unnecessary barriers. A survey is a reasonable method to measure students' awareness, perception and satisfaction. To measure this, Northeast administered the Ruffalo-Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory (RNL-SSI) in Spring 2022 and will conduct this survey again in Spring of 2026, allowing students to share how satisfied they are with their student experience as well as what issues are most important to them (each of on a scale from 1 to 7, one being lowest and seven being highest). Northeast compares responses from our students with responses from students in the Midwestern cohort of colleges. Note: SSI results from Spring 2018 are provided on occasion to show improvements/declines over time.

Compliance will be shown when the RNL-SSI:

- A. Admissions & Financial Aid group satisfaction score is greater than or equal to Midwestern cohort.
- B. Registration Effectiveness group satisfaction score is greater than or equal to Midwestern cohort.
- C. Academic Advising/Counseling group satisfaction score is greater than or equal to Midwestern cohort.
- D. Summary question, “If you had to do it over, would you enroll here again?” receives at least a 75% response selection to “6-Probably yes” and “7-Definitely yes.”

#### EVIDENCE

- A. The RNL-SSI, Admissions & Financial Aid group satisfaction score of 6.12 was greater than the Midwestern cohort score of 5.72 (and an improvement over 5.85 in 2018). (see Table 1)
- B. The RNL-SSI, Registration Effectiveness group satisfaction score of 6.27 was greater than the Midwestern cohort score of 5.85 (and an improvement over 5.97 in 2018). (see Table 1)
- C. The RNL-SSI, Academic Advising/Counseling group satisfaction score of 6.23 was greater than the Midwestern cohort score of 5.75 (and an improvement over 5.97 in 2018). (see Table 1)
- D. The RNL-SSI summary question asks, “If you had to do it over, would you enroll here again?” Northeast received 85% compared to the Midwestern cohort’s 75% (responded with either “6-Probably yes” or “7-Definitely yes.”)

*Table 1 - Scales groups and scores for RNL-SSI administrations 2018 & 2022 (Note: all Spring 2022 scales (twelve) show in Appendix – Figure 1)*

Scale	Northeast Importance	Northeast Satisfaction / SD	Performance Gap	Midwestern Cohort Importance	Midwestern Cohort Satisfaction / SD
Admissions & Financial Aid (2018)	6.47	<b>5.85</b> / 1.13	0.62	6.19	<b>5.49</b> / 1.22
Admissions & Financial Aid (2022)	6.40	<b>6.12</b> / 0.94	0.28	6.31	<b>5.72</b> / 1.23
Registration Effectiveness (2018)	6.49	<b>5.97</b> / 0.92	0.52	6.25	<b>5.68</b> / 1.03
Registration Effectiveness (2022)	6.44	<b>6.27</b> / 0.67	0.17	6.34	<b>5.85</b> / 1.05
Academic Advising/Counseling (2018)	6.54	<b>5.97</b> / 1.22	0.57	6.26	<b>5.54</b> / 1.32
Academic Advising/Counseling (2022)	6.45	<b>6.23</b> / 0.89	0.22	6.36	<b>5.75</b> / 1.32

**... the President shall not:**

**1. Recommend the setting of tuition and fees that are not based on a reasonable balance of fiscal responsibility between students and taxpayers, within the context of the impact of the property tax levy on local property owners and the overall cost of attendance for a student to be provided with an affordable education.**

#### INTERPRETATION

Based on the current funding formula, it is recommended that the Executive Limitations language for this section be changed to: “Recommend the setting of tuition and fees that are not based on a reasonable balance of fiscal responsibility between taxpayer funds and the overall cost of attendance for a student to be provided with an affordable education.”

The Nebraska Coordinating Commission is responsible for comprehensive planning to meet the postsecondary education needs of students, communities and the state, and the purpose of the statewide plan is to provide direction which leads to an “educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated higher education network throughout the state” as noted in the [Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education](#), (page i). Also noted in this plan is the Coordinating Commission’s Recommended Tuition & Fee Guidelines, which state that each sector of higher education in Nebraska is to set a tuition and free rate that aligns with that sector’s mission. It notes, “To keep community college tuition at a level that encourages public access, it will be necessary to maintain appropriate levels of state and local support for community colleges.” (page 3) In addition, it states, “...taxpayers continue to bear the majority of the cost of education for students at public postsecondary institutions, on a per student basis. The students’ share of the cost of education a measured by student payment share, should be appropriate to the role and mission of each sector.” It goes on to state, “The student payment share at the community colleges should be the lowest of the three public sectors.” (page 3)

Compliance will be shown when:

- A. Northeast tuition revenue doesn’t exceed 20% of the general fund budget.
- B. Northeast tuition and fee rates do not exceed those of the Nebraska state colleges or the university system.
- C. Northeast tuition and fee rates remain within 20% of the tuition and fee rate of our peers assigned by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission.

#### EVIDENCE

The changes in community college funding puts pressure on tuition as state aid hovers around 80% of Northeast’s total budget. However, keeping tuition revenue at 20% or less of the general fund revenue is reasonable because it is consistent with the overall funding recommendation of the Nebraska Coordinating Commission’s Statewide Plan to ensure appropriate levels of state and local support as well as costs to the student.

Table 2

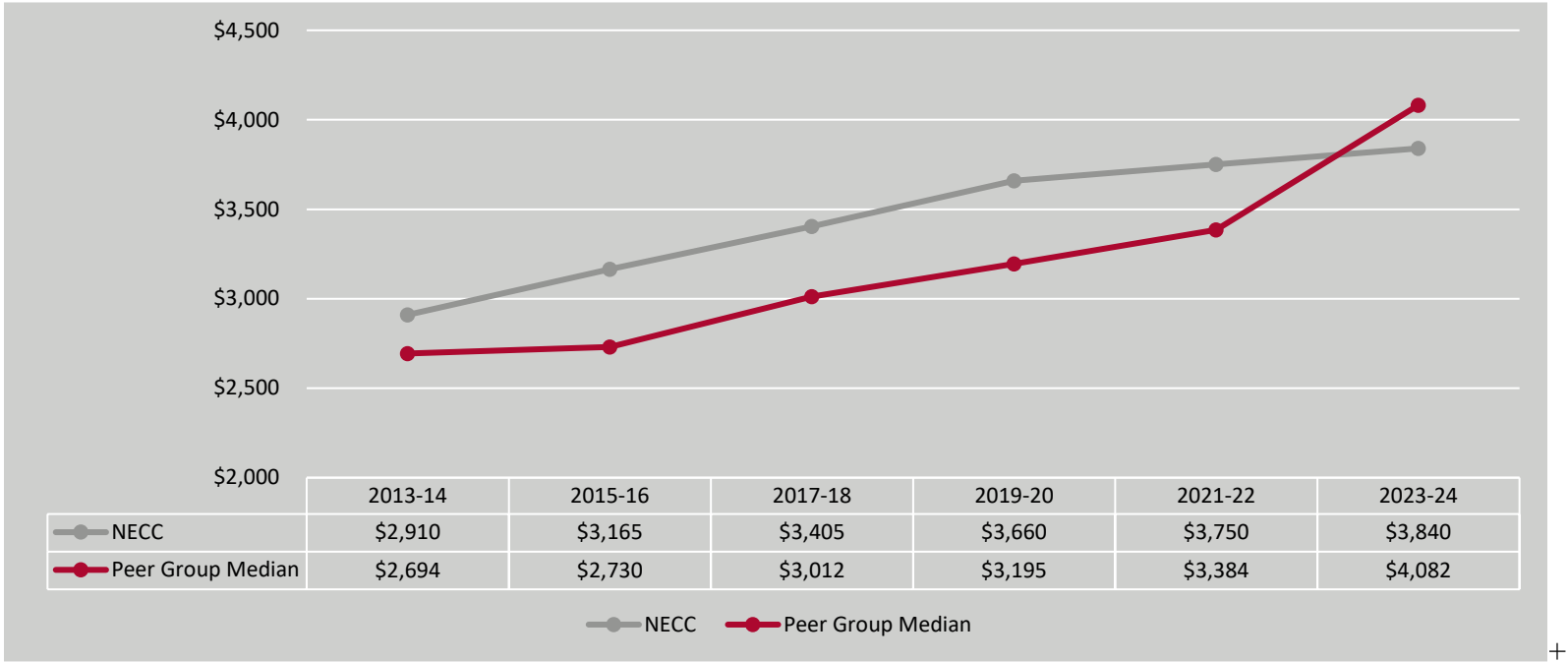
<b>Percent of Total General Fund Revenue</b>	<b>FY22</b>	<b>FY23</b>	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26 Projected</b>
<b>Tuition/Fees</b>	16.91%	17.62%	14.14%	13.56%	12.75%
<b>State Aid<sup>1</sup></b>	30.42%	29.81%	28.26%	28.45%	27.00%
<b>Property Taxes<sup>2</sup></b>	51.93%	49.06%	48.66%	0.66%	0.71%
<b>Future Fund<sup>2</sup></b>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	52.74%	50.41%
<b>Other</b>	0.74%	3.51%	2.79%	3.36%	2.92%
<b>Reserves</b>	0.00%	0.00%	6.15%	1.24%	6.21%
<b>Total</b>	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

1 incl. Dual Enrollment and Motor Vehicle Prorate

2 incl. In Lieu of Tax and NamePlate Capacity Tax

The Vice President of Student Services verified on October 1, 2025 that Northeast tuition and fee rates for 2025-26 was not higher than the Nebraska state colleges or university system. In addition, Northeast's tuition and fees are 5.9% less than our peers as assigned by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission. See Figure 1 below:

Figure 1 – Average Full-time In-District Undergraduate Tuition and Mandatory Fees (Current Dollars)



Institution	10-Year % Change
NECC	32.0%
Peer Group Median	51.5%

Source: 2024 Tuition, Fees, and College Affordability Report, Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

**...the President shall not:**

**2. Allow students and potential students to be uninformed of plans for future tuition and fee increases to allow students in credit programs to do long-term financial planning.**

INTERPRETATION

Compliance will be shown when tuition and fee rates are presented to the Board of Governors for final approval no later than December of each year for the following academic year starting in August. This is reasonable because the cost of attendance must be set before students are notified of financial aid packages no later than January of each year.

EVIDENCE

Verification of the Board Minutes confirmed that the Northeast Board of Governors approved tuition and fee and room and board rates at the November 14, 2024 meeting for the following academic year starting in August, 2025. This is done at a public meeting and minutes from this Board meeting are published on the Northeast website and often reported by local news stations. When class registration opens for the next academic year in April, tuition and fee costs are updated on the Northeast [website](#). In addition, prior to enrollment for classes, a link to the required textbooks and cost for those books is available for each course. This allows full transparency in costs for students prior to registering for courses. The Financial Aid office publishes a [Cost of Attendance](#) webpage that outlines what makes up the typical cost to attend college to assist students in understanding and planning for extra college expenses. During 2025, due to the delay of the FAFSA release, financial aid packages were provided to students for the fall 2025 semester beginning in February 2025. The FAFSA was released before October 1, 2025 for the 2026-27 financial aid year.

**...the President shall not:**

**3. Be without a consistent method that provides for appropriate recognition of learning outside of College programs.**

INTERPRETATION

As expected by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), Northeast must have effective processes for assessment of student learning and achievement of learning goals both in academic and cocurricular offerings. Cocurricular at Northeast is defined as assessed learning activities, labs, clinicals and experiences that are required to complete the discipline/program curriculum and reinforce the institution's mission and values. Northeast must demonstrate that these opportunities are available to students, and that an assessment of the student learning outcomes are being done for these cocurricular offerings.

A survey is a reasonable method to measure a student's perception of appropriate recognition of learning outside of College programs. The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), a product and service of the Center for Community College Student Engagement, provides information about effective educational practice in community colleges. Student engagement, or the amount of time and energy students invest in meaningful educational practices, is the underlying foundation for the Center's work. The CCSSE survey instrument is designed to capture student engagement as a measure of institutional quality. Compliance will be shown when:

1. CCSSE question "#8a. Internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical experience" shows a percentage of participation among respondents that is greater than or equal to the percentage compared to the Medium-sized cohort; and
2. CCSSE question, "#4p. Worked with instructors on activities other than coursework" shows a response to "Sometimes," "Often," or "Very often" that is equal to or greater than the Medium-sized cohort.

#### EVIDENCE

1. CCSSE question "#8a. Internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical experience" shows a percentage of participation among respondents is at 33.1% and that is greater than the 18.4% compared to the Medium-sized cohort; and
2. CCSSE question "#4p. Worked with instructors on activities other than coursework" saw a 44.6% response to "Sometimes," "Often," or "Very often." The Medium-sized cohort was 35.7%. Northeast outpaced all medium colleges and the 2025 CCSSE cohort by 4.4% and was 4.6% higher than the 2025 CCSSE cohort respectively in the Student-faculty Interaction benchmark category, our highest-ranking benchmark area.

**...the President shall not:**

**4. Permit academically qualified students with disabilities to be without a supportive environment that, without compromising academic standards, wherever possible enables them to complete their programs.**

#### INTERPRETATION

According to the Center for Research on Disability, nationally students with disabilities graduate at a rate 20.4% less than students without disabilities. Therefore, comparing the graduation rate of students with disabilities compared to the graduation rate of students without disabilities at Northeast is a reasonable measure to ensure students with disabilities have equal access and equal opportunity to participate in courses without compromising academic standards.

Compliance will be shown when: The graduation rate (at 150% of normal time) for students with disabilities is within 10% of the graduation rate for students without disabilities.

#### EVIDENCE

The Vice President of Student Services verified that the graduation rate (150% of normal time) for students with disabilities who started in the fall of 2022 at 38.5%, which is 6.83% less than that of our students without disabilities, which is at 45.33%. Note: Graduates rates are being calculated on all students who started in fall 2022, not just first-time, full-time students as reported to IPEDS.

**...the President shall not:**

**5. Permit activities, circumstances, or decisions that jeopardize the ability of students to enroll in available courses or to obtain the instructional hours required to complete their course of studies.**

#### INTERPRETATION

Northeast must have procedures place that would allow students currently enrolled in an academic program to complete the program with a teach-out plan if Northeast decides to end the academic program. Northeast will also work to make courses available to students throughout the service area through online, virtual, and hybrid courses as well as courses offered at extended campuses and regional offices.

A survey is a reasonable method to measure a student's perception of their ability to enroll in necessary courses to obtain to complete their degree. Compliance will be shown when: The RNL-SSI, Registration Effectiveness group satisfaction score is greater than or equal to Midwestern cohort.

#### EVIDENCE

Northeast requires any academic program that is ending to have a teach-out plan to ensure all students currently enrolled can complete the program in a reasonable timeframe. [Teach-out Protocols](#) guide this work.

Compliance is demonstrated through the RNL-SSI, Registration Effectiveness group satisfaction score of 6.27, which was greater than the Midwestern cohort score of 5.85 (and an improvement over 5.97 in 2018). See Figure 2 below:



*Figure 2 - Registration Effectiveness Spring 2022*

*Northeast Community College – SSI 05/2022*

Registration Effectiveness		Northeast Community College				National Community Colleges – Midwestern Region 2018-2021					
No	Item	Importance	Satisfaction	SD	Gap	Importance	Satisfaction	SD	Gap	Difference	SS
5	The personnel involved in registration are helpful.	6.43	6.27	.98	.16	6.34	5.83	1.43	.51	.44	***
8	Classes are scheduled at times that are convenient for me.	6.44	6.14	1.08	.30	6.42	5.75	1.44	.67	.39	***
15	I am able to register for classes I need with few conflicts.	6.46	6.31	.92	.15	6.45	5.86	1.41	.59	.45	***
35	Policies and procedures regarding registration are clear.	6.40	6.17	1.01	.23	6.37	5.85	1.36	.52	.32	***
43	Class change (drop/add) policies are reasonable.	6.42	6.41	.85	.01	6.32	5.92	1.38	.40	.49	***
51	There are convenient ways of paying my school bill.	6.57	6.33	.98	.24	6.39	5.90	1.41	.49	.43	***
56	The business office is open during hours which are convenient for most students.	6.32	6.18	1.04	.14	6.24	5.80	1.39	.44	.38	***
60	Billing policies are reasonable.	6.47	6.27	.93	.20	6.30	5.81	1.40	.49	.46	***
62	Bookstore staff are helpful.	6.44	6.39	.95	.05	6.21	5.95	1.38	.26	.44	***