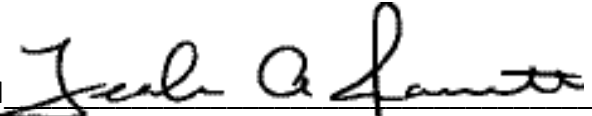




Monitoring Report
EL-02 Access to Education
October 13, 2026

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 07 October 2026

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

INTERPRETATION

Student access to education requires an awareness and effectiveness of the College's financial aid and registration processes, and satisfaction with the academic advising and perception that the college experience is free from unnecessary barriers. A survey is a reasonable method to measure students' awareness, perception and satisfaction. To measure this, 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. The 2025 CCSSE Cohort includes 437 institutions. Two-hundred twenty-eight are classified as small (<4,500 credit students), 106 as medium (4,500-7,999), 71 as large (8,000-14,999), and 32 as extra-large institutions (15,000+).

Compliance will be shown when:

1. CCSSE question “#12.2. How satisfied are you the services?” shows a percentage of participation among respondents answering “very satisfied” that is greater than or equal to the percentage compared to medium-sized colleges and the 2025 CCSSE Cohort for each item:
 - a. 12.2a. Academic advising/planning
 - b. 12.2g. Financial aid advising
2. CCSSE question, “#13. During the current academic term at this college, I completed registration before the first class session(s).” shows a response as “Yes” that is equal to or greater than medium-sized colleges and the 2025 CCSSE Cohort.
3. CCSSE question, “#9f. How much does this college emphasize the following: Providing the financial support you need to afford your education.” shows a response as “Quite a bit” and “Very much” that is equal to or greater than medium-sized colleges and the 2025 CCSSE Cohort.
4. CCSSE question, “#36. How would you evaluate your overall educational experience at this college?” with a response of “Good” or “Excellent” that is equal to or greater than medium-sized colleges and the 2025 CCSSE Cohort.

EVIDENCE

1. CCSSE question “#12.2. How satisfied are you the services?” shows the percentage respondents who answered “very satisfied” which is greater than or equal to that of medium-sized colleges and the 2025 CCSSE Cohort for each item

CCSSE Item	Northeast	Medium Colleges	2025 CCSSE Cohort
12.2a. Academic advising/planning	81.7%	60.4%	60.0%
12.2g. Financial aid advising	72.2%	61.2%	60.6%

2. CCSSE question, “#13. During the current academic term at this college, I completed registration before the first class session(s).” Ninety-five-point six percent of Northeast respondents answered “Yes” which is equal to or greater than medium-sized colleges and the 2025 CCSSE Cohort.

CCSSE Item	Northeast	Medium Colleges	2025 CCSSE Cohort
13. During the current academic term at this college, I completed registration before the first class session(s).	95.6%	89.6%	89.2%

3. CCSSE question, “#9f. How much does this college emphasize the following: Providing the financial support you need to afford your education.” shows a response as “Quite a bit” and “Very much” for Northeast respondents at 68.6% that is equal to or greater than medium-sized colleges and the 2025 CCSSE Cohort.

CCSSE Item	Northeast	Medium Colleges	2025 CCSSE Cohort
9f. How much does this college emphasize the following: Providing the financial support you need to afford your education.	68.6%	59.6%	59.2%

4. CCSSE question, “#36. How would you evaluate your overall educational experience at this college?” shows a response of “Good” or “Excellent” for Northeast respondents at 94.7% that is equal to or greater than medium-sized colleges and the 2025 CCSSE Cohort.

CCSSE Item	Northeast	Medium Colleges	2025 CCSSE Cohort
36. How would you evaluate your overall educational experience at this college?	94.7%	88.1%	88.1%

... the President shall not:

1. 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.

INTERPRETATION

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 2-3) 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 2-3)

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.

**Operating Revenue Budge
Summary by Source**

	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>FY 26 %</u>	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>of Total</u>	<u>2026-27</u>	<u>FY27 %</u>	<u>Change</u>
			<u>Budget</u>	<u>of Total</u>	
Tuition & Fees	\$7,745,479	13.60%	\$7,814,577	13.64%	.89%
State Aid¹	\$16,368,160	28.73%	\$15,579,160	27.19%	(4.82%)
Future Fund	\$30,618,795	53.74%	\$31,690,453	55.30%	3.50%
Nameplate Capacity²	\$463,641	.81%	\$467,815	.82%	.90%
Other Revenue³	\$1,776,781	3.12%	\$1,750,000	3.05%	(1.51%)
Total	\$56,972,856	100.00%	\$57,302,004	100.00%	.58%

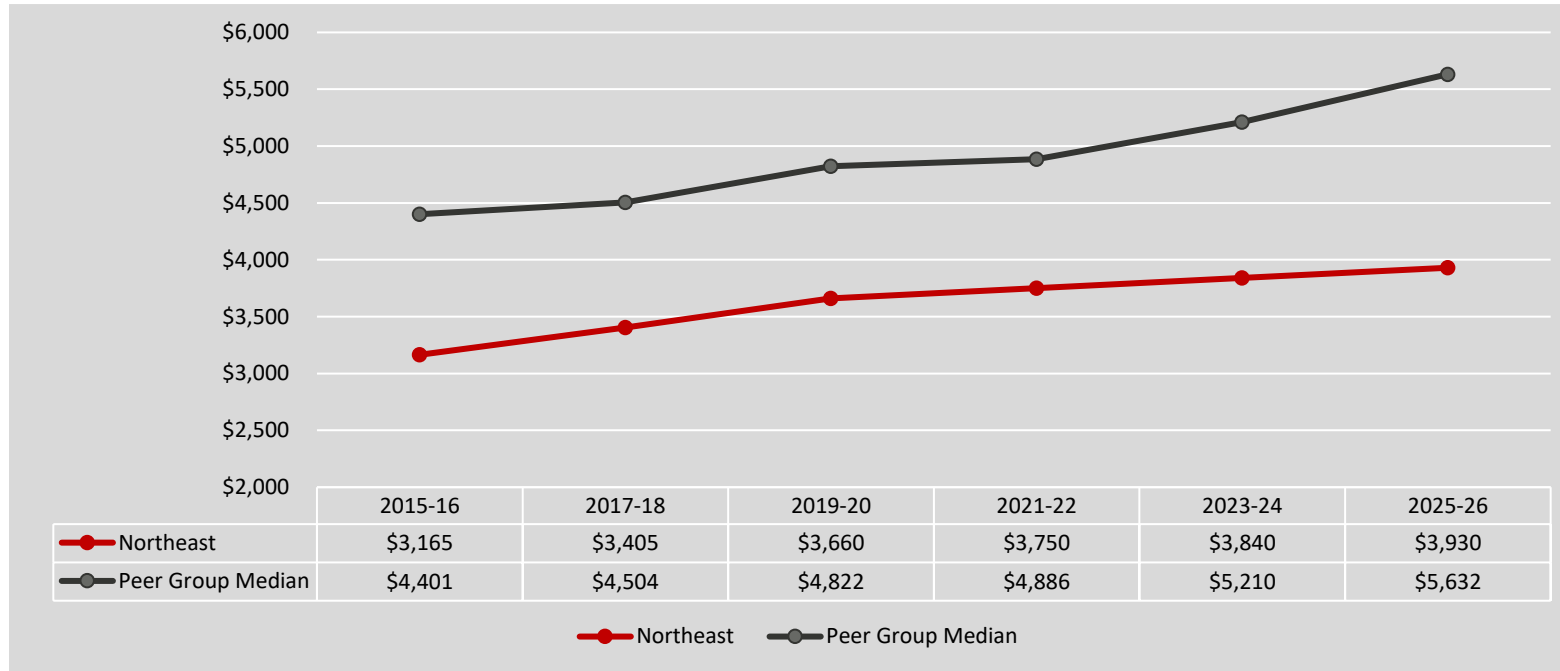
1- Includes dual enrollment allocation

2- FY26 includes motor vehicle pro-rate and in lieu of tax of \$35,746, not budgeted for in FY27

3- Includes interest, facility rentals, foundation support, student success endowment, and miscellaneous

The Vice President of Student Services verified on September 30, 2026, that Northeast tuition and fee rates for 2026-27 are not higher than the Nebraska state colleges or University system. In addition, Northeast's 2025-26 tuition and fees were 36% less than our peers as assigned by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission. See below:

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



Institution	10-Year % Change
Northeast	24.2%
Peer Group Median	28%

Source: 2026 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 can be notified of financial aid packages in 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 October 9, 2025 meeting for the following academic year starting in August 2026. This was 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.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

During 2026 financial aid packages were provided to students for the 2026-27 academic year beginning in February 2026 instead of January as preferred and noted above. The Board is scheduled to approve tuition, fees, room and board at the November 2026 meeting in time for packaging to begin in January 2027.

...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), as noted previously provides information about effective educational practice in community colleges, was administered in 2025. 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 colleges and the 2025 CCSSE 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 colleges and the 2025 CCSSE 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 medium-sized colleges and 2025 CCSSE Cohort.

CCSSE Item	Northeast	Medium Colleges	2025 CCSSE Cohort
Which of the following have you done, or are you currently doing at this college? 8a. Internship, field experience, co-op experience or clinical assignment.	33.1%	18.5%	19.8%

2. CCSSE question “#4p. Worked with instructors on activities other than coursework” saw a 44.6% response to “Sometimes,” “Often,” or “Very often” which was greater than medium-sized colleges and the 2025 CCSSE Cohort. In our highest-ranking benchmark area, Student-Faculty Interaction, Northeast outpaced medium-sized colleges by 4.5% and the 2025 CCSSE Cohort by 4.6%.

CCSSE Item	Northeast	Medium Colleges	2025 CCSSE Cohort
In your experiences at this college during this current academic year, about how often have you done each of the following? 4p. Worked with instructors on activities other than coursework.	44.6%	35.2%	36.3%

Student-Faculty Interaction Benchmark	54.6%	50.1%	50.0%
---------------------------------------	-------	-------	-------

...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 at Northeast is not below the national average of 20.4% less than 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 2023 is at 26.7%, which is 18.25% less than that of our students without disabilities at 44.93% demonstrating compliance. Northeast's Disability Services department has recently streamlined processes, allowing for increased coaching sessions with students. For example, in spring of 2026 there were 215 Disability Services coaching/advising sessions with 114 unique students and as of September 30, 2026 there have already been 288 Disability Services coaching/advising sessions with 153 unique students. A Disability Services coaching/advising session happens after accommodations are in place and sessions are requested by students as additional support is needed. Note: Graduation rates are being calculated on all students who started in fall 2023, 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 in 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 attempts 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.

Compliance will be shown when no more than three (3) complaints and/or recorded complaints are submitted annually regarding a student's ability to enroll in necessary courses to complete their course of studies.

In addition, a survey is a reasonable method to measure a student's ability to enroll in necessary courses. The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) as noted previously, provides information about effective educational practice in community colleges, was administered in 2025. Compliance will be shown when:

1. CCSSE question "#12.2. How satisfied are you the services?" shows a percentage of participation among respondents answering "very satisfied" that is greater than or equal to the percentage compared to medium-sized colleges and the 2025 CCSSE Cohort for "#12.2a. Academic advising/planning."
2. CCSSE question, "#13. During the current academic term at this college, I completed registration before the first class session(s)." shows a response as "Yes" that is equal to or greater than the medium-sized colleges and 2025 CCSSE 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.

The Dean of Students confirmed on September 30, 2026 that there were less than three complaints received from students or recorded by faculty or staff regarding students' ability to enroll in necessary courses to complete their course of studies during the 2025-26 academic year.

See the evidence from the CCSSE survey for questions #12.2. and #13 in the introduction of this Monitoring Report demonstrating compliance.