



March 2026

Funding Opportunity



Applications are officially open for the Summer of Storytelling! BSB is pleased to announce this competitive funding opportunity and our continued commitment to supporting high-quality, locally sustainable, youth-centered programming. This summer, we will build upon the foundations of the National Summer Learning Project and the continued framework of

Whole Child, Whole Life to support young people's academic, career, personal, and community outcomes.

Summer programs have tremendous potential to serve both today's and tomorrow's youth across classrooms, gardens, and other learning spaces. Today's young people benefit directly from innovative experiences that elevate youth voice and leadership, connect to local career pathways, and extend learning beyond the school year. Tomorrow's youth are served when programs build lasting support from stakeholders who can help sustain these efforts over time.

Applications are due March 31st and must include the application form and a letter of support from a district superintendent or building principal. Applications and additional materials are available at beyondschoolbells.org. BSB will host an [Application Support Webinar 3/17 at 12pm CST](#).

Reach out to dstaggs@nebraskachildren.org and svadnais@nebraskachildren.org with any questions or for additional support.

Staff Resources

Virtual Spring Connections: Join Us in April!

Spring is just around the corner, and so is a great opportunity to connect with fellow afterschool professionals! Beyond School Bells is hosting Virtual Spring Connections: free professional development and networking sessions open to any afterschool professional in Nebraska.

This spring's sessions will focus on **Staffing Strategies & Staff Well-being**, a topic we know is close to the heart of many in the field. Come ready to learn, share what's working in your program, swap ideas, and ask your peers questions. These sessions offer a great way to connect with and learn from others doing this important work.

Two free sessions are available, so choose whichever works best for you:

- **Wednesday, April 15 | 12:30–2:00 pm Central / 11:30 am–1:00 pm Mountain**
On Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84109230847?from=addon>
- **Thursday, April 16 | 10:00–11:30 am Central / 9:00–10:30 am Mountain**
On Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88102908369?from=addon>

Both sessions are free and cover the same content. No registration required, simply click the link and join! If you would prefer to receive a calendar invitation or have questions, reach out to Stephanie Vadnais (svadnais@nebraskachildren.org) or Patricia Sanchez-Stewart (psanchezstewart@nebraskachildren.org).

Check our website for details on these opportunities, as well as upcoming **Site Visits** around the state!

BSB Professional Development Opportunities

**Building Relationships and Positive Behavior in
STEM Workshops - Dates and Locations Below!**

Join at Bancroft-Rosalie Public Schools on March 4th!



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS & POSITIVE BEHAVIOR IN STEM

This 2-hour workshop is designed to help new and experienced staff grow their capacity to create a positive and supportive afterschool learning program. The hands-on workshop features STEM activities you can use right away and focuses on developing teaching skills and strategies. All out-of-school time professionals are invited to attend from part-time staff to site directors and educators.

During this workshop, you will:

- Learn strategies for proactive behavior management while teaching STEM.
- Learn how to help children be successful in STEM and see themselves as someone who can do STEM
- Experience hands-on activities for STEM activities.
- Develop strategies for creating collaborative and fun STEM learning opportunities.
- Be prepared to apply new skills and strategies when leading STEM activities afterschool.

Workshop Objectives:

- Learn how a STEM identity helps prepare children for the future.
- Be prepared to guide children in developing a STEM identity and seeing themselves as someone who can do STEM.
- Learn strategies for helping children work collaboratively.
- Practice proactive behavior management strategies for developing positive relationships.

March 4, 2026
6:15-8:15 PM

Bancroft-Rosalie Public Schools
708 Main St, Bancroft, NE 68004

Doors open at 5:45 PM with dinner served.
Registration link: <https://go.unl.edu/C25w2>



Join in Crete at the Cardinal Welcome Center on March 5th!



This 2-hour workshop is designed to help new and experienced staff grow their capacity to create a positive and supportive afterschool learning program. The hands-on workshop features STEM activities you can use right away and focuses on developing teaching skills and strategies. All out-of-school time professionals are invited to attend from part-time staff to site directors and educators.

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March 5, 2026
6:30-8:30 PM

Cardinal Welcome Center
930 Main Ave., Crete, NE 68333

Doors open at 6 PM with dinner served.

Registration link: <https://go.unl.edu/C2Sw2>



Join at Schuyler Community Schools on March 16th!

**BUILDING
RELATIONSHIPS &
POSITIVE BEHAVIOR
IN STEM**

MARCH 16, 2026
6:15-8:15 PM
Doors open at 5:45 PM with dinner served.

Schuyler community Schools
2023 colfax Street
Schuyler NE

Join our 2-hour workshop to strengthen your afterschool program! Get hands-on STEM activities you can use immediately, plus practical teaching strategies.

Perfect for all out-of-school time professionals—from part-time staff to site directors.

REGISTER HERE: 


EXTENSION


Beyond School Bells
nebraskachildren

 **CLICK 2
SCIENCE**

Join in Scottsbluff at the Panhandle Research & Extension Center on March 18th!

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS & POSITIVE BEHAVIOR IN STEM

MARCH 18, 2026
6:30-8:30pm^(MT)

Panhandle Research and
Extension center
4501 Ave I
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Join our 2-hour workshop to strengthen your afterschool program! Get hands-on STEM activities you can use immediately, plus practical teaching strategies.

Perfect for all out-of-school time professionals—from part-time staff to site directors.

REGISTER HERE: 





Join in North Platte on March 19th!

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS & POSITIVE BEHAVIORS IN STEM



Engaging workshop to support out-of-school time professionals

**MARCH
19**

Doors open at **5:30 pm**

Dinner provided
Workshop begins at **6 pm**

ESU16

1221 W 17th Street, North Platte

- Learn strategies for proactive behavior management while teaching STEM.
- Learn how to help children be successful in STEM and see themselves as someone who can do STEM.
- Experience hands-on STEM activities.
- Develop strategies for creating collaborative and fun STEM learning opportunities.
- Be prepared to apply new skills and strategies when leading STEM activities.

**No Cost to
participants!!**

Register here



Student Opportunities

DEADLINE EXTENDED

The Mott Million Dollar Challenge: Where Big Ideas Win Big



Kids and teens everywhere have world-changing ideas that deserve the spotlight, and the Mott Million Dollar Challenge is their chance to shine. This national pitch competition invites K-12 students to submit a simple 30-90-second video sharing an idea that betters their own school, home, or community.

Students can enter individually or in teams of up to three, and \$1 million in prizes will be awarded across the competition! Submissions are due February 27, 2026, so act now to take advantage of this amazing opportunity.

Supported by funding from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Mott Million Dollar Challenge is powered by the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) in collaboration with VentureLab, Young Entrepreneur Institute (YEI), the Afterschool Alliance, and Collaborative Communications.

Learn more at www.mottmillion.org or contact Jeff Cole, jcole@nebraskachildren.org for more information about tapping into incentives for Nebraska youth leaders.

[Learn More](#)

Conservation Management Internship and Experiences 2026!



There's still time to apply to be a part of our Conservation Management Programming! BSB offers **day-long Conservation Management Experiences** in the spring, summer, and fall, and a **two-week Conservation Management Internship** from May 31–June 13!

Through these programs, students will travel across Nebraska to learn about conservation efforts and actively participate in them, explore career opportunities, and

engage in meaningful service work. Nebraska's unique and diverse landscapes provide the perfect backdrop for these experiences—giving students the chance to connect deeply with nature, discover the beauty of our state, and lead youth-driven service-learning projects that make a real difference in their communities.

We are currently looking for **high school students** to join the internship and **college students** to act as mentors on the trip and on the experiences.

- Apply to be an **intern** [here!](#)
- Apply to be a **mentor** [here!](#)
- Have a student group interested in going on a conservation experience? Fill out our interest form [here!](#)

Reach out to ahansen@nebraskachildren.org with any questions!

Nebraska Farm to School Opportunities



The **Nebraska Farm to School Local Food Challenge** is a friendly competition to encourage schools and Early Care and Education (ECE) programs across the state to source local foods for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP).

Each time (during the 2025-26 school year) you purchase food or receive a donation from a local producer such as a farm, farmers market, or food hub, you can submit that transaction to count as one point towards your score.

There is no need to sign up, your first submission of a purchase or donation automatically enrolls you in the challenge. Your school or ECE will be recognized at the end of the school year for your efforts to support the health of Nebraska's students and local communities!

[Learn More about the Local Food Challenge](#)

Join the Nebraska Farm to School Network!

The Nebraska Farm to School Network supports Farm to School and Early Care and Education (ECE) stakeholders across the state in their work. We connect and support Farm to School efforts by providing resource sharing, training, and networking opportunities. We want to continue to grow a diverse and committed network that supports students and communities in Nebraska. New members make that possible!



[Learn More about the Farm to School Network](#)

[Fill Out the Form to Join the Network](#)

Greenhouse Support for Schools!

Does your school need assistance with their greenhouse or need help with getting one started? **Fill out the form below to request assistance.**

Greenhouse technical assistance is provided by the Center for Rural Affairs with support from the Nebraska Department of Education.



[Request Greenhouse Assistance](#)

Salad Bars to Schools Grant!

[Salad Bars to Schools \(SB2S\)](#) is a national grant program operated by the [Chef Ann Foundation](#). Grantees receive a comprehensive salad bar equipment package, marketing package, and technical assistance resources, including two free enrollments in *The School Food Institute's Salad Bars in Schools* course.

The goal of the program is for every school in the United States to offer a salad bar as part of their meal program — ensuring every student, from elementary school through high school, has daily access to fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and healthy proteins. Salad Bars to Schools grant applications will open soon! [Join the interest list](#) to get notified when applications open.

[Join the SB2S Interest List](#)

Our Contact Information

Nebraska Children & Families Foundation

215 Centennial Mall South
Suite 200
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-476-9401
<http://www.NebraskaChildren.org>

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