

NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER:

LEARNING COMMUNITY SPENDS OUR TAX \$\$ ON NON-EDUCATION WHILE EDUCATION FALLS.

BACKGROUND. The Learning Community (LC) expects continued generous portions of state taxpayer dollars directly from the state and through the NE Dept. of Education but continues to spend much of our tax money on non-education activities while academic achievement vegetates. The LC budget was \$13.6 million in FY 2025-2026.

NOT FOR THE KIDS. The LC is serving 213 sets of parents at its Parent U. and actively recruiting new families to join the program. 27 different course offerings. Classes include I'm Fine, which explores the needs of caregivers and offers guidance about finding community welfare services. The LC hosted a diaper bank and distributed diapers to about 100 kids monthly. One year, the LC distributed about 5,040 diapers to 72 families. Parents with children needing these items offered several packs monthly. The LC subsidized expanded day care slots for families. It provided a car safety class for families. The LC provided 7 families free tickets to attend the Outerspace Quest symphony and 4 families with ballet tickets. 3 families attended other Omaha Symphony



programs. The LC Parent University helps families pursue homeownership. The North Omaha LC Center in 2025 worked with ENCAP, a nonprofit group that provides anti-poverty programs to poor families. U Reimagined Counseling Services provides mental health services for LC participants who qualify for Medicaid. The LC refers individuals to the Bridge Project, a cash transfer program for pregnant women. Cooking demonstrations and classes for parents. The South Omaha LC Center offered Thanksgiving and Winter Wonderland family events. Parent workshops included mental health programs, a typing course, and a One World

Patient Leadership Group. Childcare training and coaching for South O childcare providers, who receive weekday coaching and Saturday LC training classes.

STUDENT SUCCESS? While LC students were celebrating Black History and Women's Month, 3rd Grade math proficiency stood at 50.5%, reading at 53%. In social-emotional measures, LC kids scored from only 11% to 25%. Diversity activities in all LC elementary schools. The LC CEO made a written agreement with the Buffett Early Childhood Institute to manage its early childhood program plan. The agreement with this leftist outfit will cost \$3,870,531 in FY 2025-2026, \$4,027,177 in FY 2026-2027, and reach \$4,272,433 in FY 2028-2029. The leftist Sherwood Foundation granted the LC \$500,000. One World Health offered a course titled *Raising Resilient Teens in the Digital Age* at \$3,183,581 cost.

STAFF TRAINING. All staff underwent diversity, equity, and inclusion training.

TAKE ACTION NOW. It is patently obvious that the LC has morphed into a welfare agency, providing parents, including illegal aliens, with a host of alternatives to obtain welfare services. Meanwhile, the LC continues to not provide hard evidence that its students from poor and minority backgrounds are achieving a level of education that is commensurate with their peers in the area public schools. In its lengthy existence, the LC has failed miserably to reach its stated goal of significantly improving education for its youngsters. Past time for the Legislature to legislate this failed educational institution out of business. Email your state senator to save taxpayer dollars by terminating LC funding. Email netaxpayers@gmail.com for state senator contact information and join our NTF *Learning Community Watch Project*.

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