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## Nebraska unveils electronic transcript transfer process for college applications

BY LESLIE REED

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

LINCOLN — Nebraska high school guidance counselors can spend more time counseling and less time stuffing envelopes and licking stamps, thanks to a newly unveiled system to electronically transfer high school transcripts for students' college applications.

Nebraska is the second state, after Indiana, to adopt a statewide initiative to offer the service to all Nebraska colleges and high schools.

A three-year, \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Education Department is paying for the initiative, Marshall Hill, executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Postsecondary Education, said Monday.

With a few clicks of a computer mouse, a student's transcript can be electronically transferred to the colleges they choose, said John Reese, president of Docufide, the technology company providing the service.

There is no charge to transfer transcripts to colleges within an 11-state region participating in the service. Reese said the company has 3,600 institutions in its database.

The company also will send transcripts to nonparticipating institutions for a \$2.25 fee if those schools accept electronic transfers and for a \$4.25 fee if they require paper transcripts.

High schools can join the service with the simple installation of software provided by the company. The software will automatically organize the school's transcript information into a standard format.

Gov. Dave Heineman lauded the effort during a press conference at Lincoln Southeast High School. He said it fits with his call to improve college-going rates and to increase parents' involvement in their children's schooling.

"Students are more likely to go to college if we make the effort seamless," he said.

State education officials said the transcript service also will yield previously unavailable data about student performance and college preparation.

Participation is voluntary, but officials said they expect the service to take off quickly.

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