

Nebraska School District Accountability 101

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While Nebraska Accountability 101 may read a bit like Greek 101, especially for new administrators, the topic has become increasingly prominent in education at the state and federal levels, and rarely are accountability systems simple in their construct. A number of factors contribute to the various accountability requirements of Nebraska schools:

- **NeSA-** Nebraska State Accountability assessments are tests administered statewide, which provide the scores that are the basis of state and federal accountability.
- **NePAS-** Nebraska Performance Accountability System is a system of ranking school districts based on their NeSA scores.
- **AYP-** Adequate Yearly Progress is the Federal accountability system and is also based on NeSA scores.

Nebraska State Assessment- NeSA

The Nebraska State Accountability [NeSA] assessments are summative assessments based on the Nebraska state standards and administered to students each year according to grade level.

Test	Grades Given	Type of Test	Test Window	Sessions	Mode
Writing	4, 8, and 11	Open Response (Essay)	Three weeks- January-February	4 th Grade-Two 40-Minute Sessions	Paper/Pencil
				8 th and 11 th - Unlimited Time One 90-Minute Session Suggested	Online
Reading	3-8 and 11	Multiple Choice	Six Weeks- March-May	Unlimited Time Two 60-90-Minute Sessions Suggested	Online
Math	3-8 and 11	Multiple Choice	Six Weeks- March-May	Unlimited Time Two 60-90-Minute Sessions Suggested	Online
Science	5, 8 and 11	Multiple Choice	Six Weeks- March-May	Unlimited Time Two 60-90-Minute Sessions Suggested	Online

Nebraska Performance Accountability System- NePAS

In 2012, the Nebraska State Board of Education established the Nebraska Performance Accountability System by which school districts are ranked by grade level configurations based on NeSA assessment results. NePAS was included for the first time in the State of the School Report, released in November 2012.

NePAS includes two sections:

NePAS-Section I:

For each district NePAS includes four charts, one for each of the four following grade level configurations:

- Grades 3-5 by district
- Grades 6-8 by district
- Grades 9-12 by district
- Grades 3-12 by district

Each chart includes the district's scale scores in NeSA- Reading, Math, Science, and Writing for status, improvement, growth, graduation rate and participation rate and a ranking of each in comparison to other school districts in the state.

Sample District NePAS Chart-2011-2012
School District (Grades 3-12)

Indicator Type	Indicator	District Results	State Results	Rank	# of Ranked Districts
Status	Average NeSA Reading	103.99	98.7	123	249
	Average NeSA Math	88.98	100.22	231	249
	Average NeSA Science	96.33	109.21	200	249
	Average NeSA Writing	21.44	33.33	219	249
Improvement from 2011 (Different Students)	Average NeSA Reading	17.33	9.14	101	248
	Average NeSA Math	7.00	4.32	102	248
Growth since 2011 (Same Students)	Average NeSA Reading	14.33	5.22	78	248
	Average NeSA Math	5.51	5.32	121	248
Graduation Rate	4-Year	99.66 %	89.77 %	110	248
Participation	NeSA Reading	MET			
	NeSA Math	MET			
	NeSA Science	MET			
	NeSA Writing	MET			

NePAS-Section II:

A school chart and district chart for each grade in which NeSA tests are given, grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11, are included in this section. The grade-level charts include the same information as the four district charts in Section I; however, no rankings are included.

Adequate Yearly Progress- AYP

At the Federal requirement level, the results of NeSA tests are used to determine each Nebraska school's Adequate Yearly Progress [AYP]. AYP is based on the percent of students who are counted as proficient by earning Meets or Exceeds on the NeSA math and reading tests. The proficiency goals for AYP for the next two school years are:

AYP Reading Goals			
	Elementary	Middle School	High School
2012-2013	89%	90%	89%
2013-2014	100%	100%	100%

AYP Mathematics Goals			
	Elementary	Middle School	High School
2012-2013	84 %	83 %	80 %
2013-2014	100%	100%	100%

Common Core Standards

As NDE has received many questions concerning the implementation of the Common Core national standards, the department has contracted with McREL, a regional research center, to study the alignment between the Nebraska State Standards in math and language arts and the Common Core standards. The results of this study will inform future decisions concerning standards and assessment. Results of the comparison will be available in August of 2013.