

TO: Roger Breed, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Pat Roschewski, Director of Statewide Assessment

SUBJECT: Nebraska Performance Accountability System - NePAS

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve the implementation of the Nebraska Performance Accountability System (NePAS) in 2012.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Nebraska has been without an accountability system since the transition of the local assessment process to the NeSA tests. A subcommittee of the State Board of Education has been working since 2009 on the development of a new accountability system based upon the results NeSA tests and other performance indicators designated by the State Board of Education.

In August of 2009 the State Board adopted a set of beliefs regarding standards, assessment, and accountability, and in November of 2010, the Board adopted a Framework for State Accountability: Beliefs, Purposes, Values. The Nebraska Performance Accountability System (NePAS) now under consideration includes the first steps of implementing the new accountability system beginning in 2012. The implementation proposal has been reviewed by the Governor's Technical Advisory Committee and received their approval.

Although many implementation decisions remain, board approval is sought to begin the implementation in 2012. Monthly updates will follow throughout the year to seek board input regarding future and additional implementation decisions.

For additional information on this item: Call Pat Roschewski 402-471-2495,
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Ne-PAS Accountability Model: November 2011

The following narrative provides extended explanation for the Nebraska Performance Accountability System (Ne-PAS) as of November 21, 2011.

Accountability decisions will be based upon points earned in each building in the state beginning in the fall of 2012. District decisions will be made by using the same formulas with all tested students in each district.

Decisions will be made at three levels in each building and district: elementary, middle school, and high school. The grade levels to be included in the decisions will be based upon the grade level configurations within the buildings. For example, an elementary decision might combine points earned in grades 3-5 or 3-6 depending upon the grade levels housed in the building; middle school decisions might include points based upon scores in grades 6-8, 5-8, or 7-8, and high school decisions will be based upon the points in the only tested grade in the high school – grade 11.

Performance Indicators:

The direct scale proposal will rely on assigning points from Performance Indicators that have been considered by the Subcommittee to date: NeSA Status points based upon NeSA score averages, NeSA Participation, School Improvement in NeSA averages, individual Student Growth in NeSA scores and Graduation Rate.

The Board Accountability Subcommittee has suggested policy weights for each indicator – The policy weight determines how much importance each indicator should carry in the calculation. Ex: NeSA Reading and Mathematics – full weight, NeSA-Writing and Science – half weight, etc. The tables on page 4 show the currently suggested policy weights.

NeSA Status

Buildings will receive status points in direct relation to their average NeSA scale score in reading, mathematics, writing and science as each subject area test is integrated into the system. The average scale score will be calculated using all tests administered in the building's grade range.

For example, reading has a Policy Weight of 10. Therefore a school with an average scale score of 109.2 will receive 1092 points. Elementary Science has a Policy Weight of 5. Therefore a school with an average science scale score of 114.2 would get 571 points.

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Graduation Rate Points

- Nebraska has set a high school graduation rate target of 90%. The accountability system will award additional points to buildings that graduate more students (up to 100%).
- In 2011-2012 the first year of calculations, the graduation rate will be based upon the four year graduation cohort rate that will also be used in calculating AYP.
- The 4-year graduation rate will have a Policy Weight of 6. A school with a graduation rate of 70% will get 420 points.
- High Schools will also receive points for their 6-year graduation rate. The policy weight will be 4.

NeSA Participation

Participation in NeSA assessments has been defined differently from the other indicators. Each school that meets the target of 95% will receive 50 points for each subject tested. (Elementary and middle school science and writing will only generate 25 points.) Schools that do not have 95% or more of their students participate will receive no points for participation.

NeSA Improvement (Cross-Sectional) – These are different students every year.

- School improvement will be calculated based on the difference between the average NeSA scale score for the current year and average scale score for the previous year. The average scale score is calculated as the mean of all scores from students tested in that year.
- Improvement is based on the performance of all students who are tested each year. The two groups of students being compared will be different because of the normal progression of students through the grades. The oldest students will graduate to their next school and the youngest students tested will be new each year.

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- For example, 2011 fifth graders will be compared to 2010 fifth graders and those fifth graders from 2010 will not be included in the current year's average if they have moved to the 6th grade in another school.
- Note that the same scale is used each year. Therefore a student who earns the same scale score two years in a row can be said to have achieved one year's growth. In other words, a student with a difference in scale score of zero has achieved the growth expected for a single year.
- Improvement for reading and math at the elementary and middle level will have a Policy Weight of 5. A school with an average reading score of 105.3 in 2010 and 112.6 in 2011 will get 37 points.
($112.6 - 105.3 = 7.3$; $7.3 * 5 = 36.5$ rounded to 37).
- A school whose average scale score drops from one year to the next will lose points. For example, if the average science scale score is 115.2 in 2010 and 111.1 in 2011, the school will get -10 points ($111.1 - 115.2 = -4.1$; $-4.1 * 2.5 = -10.25$ rounded to -10) Science has a Policy Weight of 2.5 at the elementary and middle school level.

NeSA Growth Points (Cohort): These are the same students tracked from grade to grade.

- Student growth in the elementary and middle school buildings will be calculated in reading and mathematics by subtracting each student's scale score for the previous year from the current year scale score.
- Growth is based on tracking the scores of the same students from one year to the next. Only students who were tested in both years at the school will be included in the calculation. For example, fifth grade scores will be compared to those same students' scores in grade four.
- Note that the same scale score range is used at each grade level. Therefore a student who earns the same scale score two years in a row can be said to have achieved one year's growth. In other words, a student with a difference in scale score of zero has achieved the growth expected for a single year.
- Points will be awarded to buildings based on the average of their students' scale score differences.

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- The first data available to calculate growth and check the reliability of this approach is 2011 reading data. By the end of 2011, preliminary growth calculations will be applied across two years of reading, e.g. Grades 3-4, 4-5, 5-6, etc.
- In 2011 the average scale scores in mathematics will be assigned baseline points. In 2012 a two year growth will be applied.
- No points are awarded for growth in NeSA scale score averages at the high school level as only one grade is assessed. Graduation growth points are awarded to high school buildings in place of NeSA scale score growth points.
- Example: An elementary school would test students in grades 3, 4 and 5. In 2011, the school will have difference scores for its current 4th and 5th graders. If the average difference in reading is 8.3, the school would receive 42 points. ($8.3 * 5 = 41.5$; rounded to 42) The Policy weight for reading growth is 5.

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Policy Weights

The Board Subcommittee has considered the relative importance of each performance Indicator. To ensure that the Accountability system represents these policy decisions, each performance indicator score will be multiplied by the following Policy Weights:

Elementary/ Middle Schools		
Indicator Type	Indicator	Policy Weight
Status	Average NeSA Reading	10
	Average NeSA Math	10
	Average NeSA Science	5
	Average NeSA Writing	5
Improvement	Average NeSA Reading	5
	Average NeSA Math	5
	Average NeSA Science	2.5
	Average NeSA Writing	2.5
Growth	Average NeSA Reading	5
	Average NeSA Math	5

High Schools		
Indicator Type	Indicator	Policy Weight
Status	Average NeSA Reading	10
	Average NeSA Math	10
	Average NeSA Science	10
	Average NeSA Writing	10
Improvement	Average NeSA Reading	6
	Average NeSA Math	6
	Average NeSA Science	6
	Average NeSA Writing	6
Graduation Rate	4-year rate	6
	6-year rate	4

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Elementary/ Middle: Accountability Indicator Weights

This table shows the calculation of the Accountability Index using the 2011 results from a typical Elementary School. As data are added over time, the policy weights will be reexamined annually.

Indicator Type	Indicator	2011 Scores	Policy Weight	Accountability Points	Rank (out of 490)
Status	Average NeSA Reading	103.62	10	1036	298
	Average NeSA Math	97.74	10	977	308
	Average NeSA Science	NA	5	-	
	Average NeSA Writing	NA	5	-	
Improvement (Different Students)	Average NeSA Reading	2010 = 95.56 Difference = 8.06	5	40	149
	Average NeSA Math	NA	5	-	
	Average NeSA Science	NA	2.5	-	
	Average NeSA Writing	NA	2.5	-	
Growth (Same Students)	Average NeSA Reading	9.44	5	47	172
	Average NeSA Math	NA	5	-	
Participation	% Tested in Reading	98	50 points(25 for Elem & MS Science and Writing) if at least 95% tested	50	
	% Tested in Math	99		50	
	% Tested in Science	NA	0 points plus required audit if less than 95% tested	-	
	% Tested in Writing	NA		-	
Accountability Index Total				2200	285

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High School: Accountability Indicator Weights

This table shows the calculation of the Accountability Index using the 2011 results from a typical High School. As data are added over time, the policy weights will be reexamined annually.

Indicator Type	Indicator	2011 Scores	Policy Weight	Accountability Points	Rank (out of 229)
Status	Average NeSA Reading	111.20	10	1112	81
	Average NeSA Math	93.63	10	936	161
	Average NeSA Science	NA	10	-	
	Average NeSA Writing	NA	10	-	
Improvement (Different Students)	Average NeSA Reading	2010 = 110.27 Difference = 0.93	6	6	140
	Average NeSA Math	NA	6	-	
	Average NeSA Science	NA	6	-	
	Average NeSA Writing	NA	6	-	
Graduation Rate	4-year rate	92%	6	551	95
	6-year rate	NA	4	-	
Participation	% Tested in Reading	99	50 points(25 for Elem & MS Science and Writing) if at least 95% tested	50	
	% Tested in Math	99		50	
	% Tested in Science	NA	0 points plus required audit if less than 95% tested	-	
	% Tested in Writing	NA		-	
Accountability Index Total				2705	133