



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

FROM: Margaret Worth, General Counsel

SUBJECT: Policy Review Information Item

Proposed Board Action:

State Board Policies G9, G10 and B6 for review.

Background Information:

State Board Bylaw B8 requires that all State Board Policies, including Bylaws, Internal Policy Directives and General Education Policies, be reviewed by the Board every four years. Pursuant to the review schedule implemented by the State Board's Policy Committee, State Board Policies G9, G10 and B6 are submitted for review.

If the Commissioner, Board President or any Board member believes that action or referral to the Policy Committee is necessary in connection with these Policies, an appropriate motion may be placed on the Agenda for the May Board meeting.

Pursuant to B8, Policies G9 and G10 will expire on October 6, 2012, unless revised or reaffirmed prior to that date. Policy B6 will remain in effect indefinitely until revised or rescinded.

Estimated Cost:

N/A

Supporting Documentation Included:

Board Policies B8, G9, G10 and B6.

For Additional Information on this item:

Call Margaret Worth (402) 471-0310 or email Margaret.Worth@nebraska.gov

Policy, Bylaw, and Position Statement Development

The State Board may change its existing policies, bylaws or position statements or adopt new policies, bylaws, or position statements at any time, on its own motion or upon recommendation by the Commissioner.

All State Board policies, bylaws and position statements shall be included on the State board's webpage.

All State Board policies, bylaws and position statement are to be reviewed by the Board every four years and the Commissioner will recommend a subsequent review date when each new policy is proposed.

The State Board's general education policies or position statements (designated by the letter "G") shall expire four years after their adoption unless revised or reaffirmed by the State Board prior to expiration. Starting on October 6, 2010, general education policies or position statements that are more than four years old shall expire on October 6, 2012, unless revised or reaffirmed prior to that date.

The State Board's procedural bylaws (designated by the letter "B") and the State Board's internal policy directives (designated by the letter "D") shall remain in full force and effect until amended or rescinded by the State board.

The General Counsel will review all Board policies, bylaws and position statements annually for compliance with state law.

All State Board resolutions, except those honoring an individual, shall contain an expiration date.

Board Action History

- 12/10/76
Prior BD-1 (Statement of Board authority and foremost consideration.)
Prior BDA-2 (Systematic procedures for policy adoption.)
Prior BDE-2 (Annual policy review.)
- 12/7/84 – Prior 9311 BOP
(Replace 1976 policies with statement that Board can change or adopt policies at any time.)
- 12/8/95 – Prior B8
(Added 5-vote requirement and 3-year minimum review.)
- 6/7/02 – Prior B8
(5-vote requirement deleted.)
- 9/7/06 – B8
(Added references to bylaws and position statements, changed 3 to 2 year reviews, added annual General Counsel law review.)
- 10/6/10 – B8
(Changed 2 to 4 year reviews and clarified expiration dates of policies, bylaws and position statements approved by the State Board.)

Cross-References

- 79-301(2) – The State Board's duty to form policy.
- 79-315 – The State Board's power to organize itself.

Nebraska State Board of Education Policy: Accountability Reporting

Purpose for Reporting

The State Board of Education believes that reporting public school performance to the local and statewide community is critical to improving the quality of education in Nebraska. Local and state reports should provide the basis for:

- Improving schools and improving student achievement
- Informing the public about the performance of schools and students

Districts should design and issue local reports that best communicate with their communities. However, some consistency in data gathered and uniformity in reporting by all districts will best inform Nebraskans about the educational performance of their schools and will support local and state level decision-making for continued improvement of student learning.

Therefore, it is the intent of the State Board that the following sections of this policy guide the continued implementation of accountability reporting and that the Department initiate any needed regulations, staff development, or other appropriate procedures and actions.

STATEWIDE REPORTING

The Department of Education will annually issue a State of the Schools Report containing information about all school districts and buildings, including data listed in the following paragraphs. The report will provide ratings of each district based upon student performance in achieving standards, quality of assessments, and improvement over time. The report will not list school districts or buildings in a rank order.

COLLECTION AND REPORTING

Local school districts will annually collect and report data to their local communities and to the Nebraska Department of Education. Data to be collected will be determined by the Department and will include, but not be limited to, data regarding:

- Student performance on academic content standards (as specified in the State Board approved reporting schedule).
- Student performance on standardized norm-referenced tests in reading and mathematics.
- District and building demographics.
- Curriculum information.

- Teacher information, including teacher qualifications.
- Financial information.
- School improvement goals and progress.

REPORTING OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE DATA

Student performance data will be reported according to the following criteria:

- **District/Building Reports.** Districts will report performance of all students in designated content areas and grades or grade levels to NDE by district and building.
- **Disaggregation of Data.** To assist in determining local and state progress in areas of special need, data will be reported by subgroup (disaggregated), for students and teachers. Subgroups will be reported by such categories as needed to fulfill reporting state and federal requirements or to support school improvement.
- **Confidentiality of Information.** Districts will report to NDE for all designated grades and all buildings having the specified reporting grades. However, if grades or subgroups have fewer than 10 students in the group being reported, the performance for the group will not be reported publicly but will be included in the statewide aggregated reports. No individual student or teacher data will be publicly reported.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING SCHEDULE

All school districts will report to the Department student performance on state approved standards for reading, speaking, listening; mathematics; science; and social studies according to a schedule established by the State Board of Education. The schedule will continue to be phased in through 2006-07.

ASSURING QUALITY OF DATA

It is essential that data collected and reported by NDE be valid and accurate. Therefore, the Department shall establish indicators of quality to assure validity and accuracy of all data. The Department will also develop other methods to further verify the quality of data collected.

DATA SYSTEMS

The Department will develop a system to maintain student and teacher data that will provide needed accountability. The data system will be designed to:

- Assure and verify the data quality
- Reduce the data collection burden upon school districts
- Provide a means of disaggregating data
- Be sufficiently flexible to incorporate future needs
- Protect the privacy and confidentiality of individual teachers and students

IMPROVEMENT OVER TIME

The primary intent of data collection and accountability reporting is to guide local and statewide school improvement goals and procedures. At the local level the information should assist schools in establishing goals and measuring progress in student achievement over time. At the state level, the information should guide activities to assist schools in improving student performance. The data should especially assist schools in developing goals and plans and implementing instructional strategies to assure that all students, and especially students with unique needs, successfully accomplish the state standards.

Board Action History

- Policy statement adopted 10/1/1998
- Policy statement revised 2/7/03

Cross-References

- 92 NAC 10

Nebraska State Board of Education Policy: Assessment Policy

Local Responsibility

The State Board of Education believes that the assessment of student academic performance is a local responsibility. Local assessment serves three major purposes:

- To aid in planning and providing classroom instruction appropriate to student needs;
- To assist in making decisions about placement of students;
- To monitor the progress of students in a program, school, or district.

Although each function is vital, the primary purpose of assessment is to improve instruction and increase learning in the classroom. The results of assessment should be used primarily to judge how well individual students are learning and to modify instruction accordingly.

Since each assessment process or instrument has different strengths, no single one can adequately achieve all of the above purposes. Therefore, multiple assessment processes are necessary to provide information for teachers, parents, and policy makers.

Statewide Role

The State Board of Education believes that all public school districts in Nebraska should participate in an assessment process implemented through the use of multiple validated measures already in use in Nebraska schools. This assessment process should provide information to monitor the progress of public school districts and to assist in making informed decisions.

It is the policy of the State Board of Education to strengthen education in the State of Nebraska by:

1. Clarifying the expectations for educational achievement of students through the establishment of state content standards.
2. Insuring that all students in public schools have a similar opportunity to demonstrate academic achievement and progress in mastering the content standards through an assessment process.
3. Establishing a reporting system so that parents, decision makers, and other citizens have a better opportunity to judge the relative effectiveness of their local public school district in helping students to meet and exceed state content standards.

4. Promoting staff development that will assist Nebraska educators in using student assessment appropriately.
5. Insuring that a student assessment system is based upon sound classroom assessment.
6. Using multiple validated measures for statewide assessment only to monitor school performance.

It is also the policy of the Board that assessments used or developed for use in Nebraska shall assess the Nebraska standards for reading/writing/speaking/listening; mathematics; science; and social studies/history.

Evaluation

The State Board of Education shall establish a process for periodic evaluation of the assessment policy, plan, and practices by an independent body. The evaluation shall be the basis for determining how well the assessment measures student learning as defined by the standards and the basis for considering changes in the policy, plan, and practices.

Board Action History

- First Assessment Policy adopted 10/1/1998
- Policy statement updated 2/7/03

Cross-References

- 92 NAC 10

Task Forces and Advisory Committees or Councils

By formal action, the State Board may establish task forces and advisory committees or councils and may appoint individuals to serve on these bodies. Task forces and advisory committees or councils may be directed to prepare proposals or recommendations for the Board to consider or may be directed to undertake other duties as required by federal or state law.

Unless otherwise required by federal or state law, the proposals and recommendations of task forces and advisory committee or councils are considered to be proposals and recommendations to the State Board. The Board must review such proposals and recommendations and revise them as needed in order for such proposals and recommendations to be Board position statements or Board program priorities. The Board's official review, revision and adoption shall precede the formal distribution of proposals or recommendations as official publications of the Department.

Task forces and advisory committees or councils cannot perform duties or exercise powers given by law to the State Board.

The Board shall provide each task force and advisory committee or council with a specific charge that includes the identification of duties, the results to be achieved, the resources or budget available, and the expected timeline for completion of activities. The Commissioner is responsible for providing each task force and advisory committee or council with the Board's charges. The Commissioner is also responsible for monitoring the work of these bodies and for reporting on their progress to the Board at regular intervals.

The Board shall review the role, functions and responsibilities of all task forces and advisory committees or councils every two years, although failure to conduct such a review shall not affect the validity of any existing task force or advisory committee or council. The Commissioner shall maintain a current list of all task forces and advisory committees or councils and of review dates.

The Commissioner may appoint task forces and advisory committees or councils on the internal management of the agency; and may appoint other task forces and advisory committees or councils as required by law, regulation or as authorized by the State Board.

Board Action History

- 10/1/80 – Prior BBF
(Specified creation and expense procedures and listed 11 required committees.)
- 12/7/84 – Prior 9133 BOP
(Revised and renumbered BBF. Deleted text restating statutes and references to vocational advisory council. Listed 15 committees.)
- 12/8/95 – Prior B6
(Major revision and abbreviation, provided for 2-year committee reviews and added reference to committees appointed by Commissioner.)
- 11/7/97 – Prior B6
(Partial revision. Provided for State Board review prior to publication of proposals and recommendations. Added specific charges to task forces/committees.)
- 9/7/06 – B6
(Revision and rewording. Deleted references to pre-publication review and Commissioner's committees.)

Cross-References

- 79-318(9) – State Board's duty to secure advice.