

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

FROM: Freida Lange, Administrator
Accreditation and School Improvement

SUBJECT: Overview of Proposed Revisions to Rule 84

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Report only.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Rule 84 (*Regulations for Educational Service Units*) establishes the baseline that all Educational Service Units must meet for legal operation. The Rule contains regulations related to:

- Role and mission of Educational Service Units
- General provisions regarding how services are identified and requested by member school districts
- Procedures for ESU Accreditation
- Staff requirements (instructional and administrative)
- Evaluation of ESUs through external visitations
- Core Services

As the Department looks at reorganizing to better facilitate a Statewide System of Support for schools and school systems, improving every agency's capacity to provide service and support has become a focus. Strengthening the partnership between the Educational Service Units and the Nebraska Department of Education is a primary focus and an ad hoc committee is collaboratively reviewing the Rule 84 document for updating and revision.

The link to the current Rule 84 is: <http://www.education.ne.gov/LEGAL/webrulespdf/Rule84.pdf>

Estimated Cost

N/A

Supporting Documentation Included: [Revision Overview](#)

For additional information on this item: Call Freida Lange (402) 471-2444 or e-mail freida.lange@nebraska.gov

**Overview of Suggested Revisions or Additions in Rule 84
(Regulations for Educational Service Units)
September 2011**

The items below summarize proposed revisions, additions, deletions and discussion for a hearing draft of Rule 84.

Rule 84 Sections	Reason for Inclusion in Update
Cover page	Title modified to clarify the purpose of Rule 84
001 (General Provisions)	Establish the scope and application of Rule 84. Remove the statutory language that is simply repeating the existing statutes.
002 (Definitions)	Define collaboration, core services, ESU Coordinating Council in order to align the Rule with current statute.
003 (Requirements for Operation)	Align the Rule with current statutes related to Core Service.
	Strengthen the requirement for each individual unit to work in collaborative settings with each other and the Department in order to establish focus and coordination of core services.
	Purposefully designate staff to participate in statewide initiatives and planning.
004 (Procedures for Accreditation)	Minor changes and additions are made to align sections within the Rule or simple clean-up.
005 (Staff)	Adds staff evaluation requirements.
006 (Informational Reports)	This section is moved to Section 003 as the reports are "requirements for operation."
007 (Evaluation)	Renamed: ESU Improvement and Evaluation Strengthens and specifies the requirements for external visitations. Visitations become aligned with current protocols and procedures required of accredited districts and allow ESUs to use regional accreditation (AdvancED) to meet the requirements of an external visit. It also requires ESUs to use aggregate student data.
008 (Core Services)	Establishes what core services are and strikes funding mechanisms which are no longer in statute.
Appendix A	Adds the Annual Accreditation Compliance Form to the Rule.