

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

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