

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

FROM: Statewide Assessment Team – John Moon

SUBJECT: Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA-AA Science) Cut scores

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve the cut scores for the NeSA-AA Science tests (alternate tests) in grades 5,8, and 11 as reviewed and recommended by the State Board's Accountability Sub Committee.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Nebraska Department of Education has developed and administered statewide tests in science (NeSA-AAS) for students with the most significant disabilities in grades 5, 8, and 11. Typically the number of students taking the alternate tests is fewer than 1% of the assessed population. In order to determine the numbers of students who have mastered the state standards, proficiency levels must be established. Proficiency levels define the percentages of students who are in each of the three categories:

- “Exceeds the standards”
- “Meets the standards”
- “Below the standards”

Alpine Testing Company in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education facilitated a Modified Angoff process for determining the cut scores using panels of experienced Nebraska teachers. The process of reading cut scores is being repeated this year to assure fairness to such a small percentage of the population. Alpine has finalized the studies, compiled the results, and provided recommendations to the Department and to the State Board of Education's Accountability Sub Committee. The Sub Committee has reviewed the recommendations and is ready to present the findings to the entire State Board of Education for approval.

For additional information on this item: Call John Moon at the Assessment Office: 402-471-1685, john.moon@nebraska.gov