

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

FROM: Pat Roschewski, Director of Statewide Assessment

SUBJECT: NeSA-Writing Cut Scores – Work Session and Action Item

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve the recommended “cut scores” for the NeSA –Writing assessments in grades 8 and 11.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The State Board of Education is charged with the responsibility of establishing the “cut scores” for state tests to determine the levels of student performance that will be classified in one of the following three categories:

- “Exceeds the Standards”
- “Meets the Standards”
- “Below the Standards”

New cut scores are being set in 2012 for the NeSA-Writing assessments in grades 8 and 11 because the 2012 writing assessments in these grades changed to analytic scoring and online test administration. Although the cut scores will be based on the total score, schools for the first time, will receive sub-score information about student writing.

New cut scores for grade 4 assessments will not occur in 2012, but will be set in 2013 when the 4th grade assessments are scored analytically.

The 2012 cut score process occurred on April 24th with trained panelists representing Nebraska schools. Data Recognition Corporation facilitated the cut score process and validated it with a statistical analysis that resulted in recommended cut score ranges. The accountability sub-committee will overview the recommended ranges and will contribute input to the recommended cut scores that will be presented to the State Board at the May meeting.

For additional information on this item: Call Pat Roschewski 402-471-6469 or email pat.roschewski@nebraska.gov