



**TO:** Scott Swisher, Ed.D.  
Deputy Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Donlynn Rice, Senior Administrator, Curriculum and Instruction  
Tricia Parker, NDE Director of Reading/Language Arts

**SUBJECT:** Review results of the alignment study for Language Arts

**Proposed Board Action:**

none

**Background Information:**

State Statute 79.760.01 requires that academic content standards be reviewed every five years. It is now time to begin looking at Nebraska's Language Arts and Mathematics standards which were adopted in 2009. Since the development of the Nebraska Standards, the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers released a set of Common Core State Standards in Language Arts and Mathematics. These standards have been adopted by a majority of the states around the country.

As a part of Nebraska's review process the State Board authorized an alignment study between the Common Core State Standards and the Nebraska Standards for each grade level in March of 2013. The results of the Language Arts Section of this study will be shared with the Board. It will include information on the degree of match that exists; strong, partial, or weak. If a partial match is identified, the nature of the difference will be defined; specificity, scope, emphasis, phrasing. The results of this study will be used to assist the Board in the review of Nebraska standards.

Nebraska contracted with McREL (Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning) to do this study. They have conducted validation studies on Nebraska's Language Arts, Mathematics and Social Studies Standards in the past. Their work has always been of the highest caliber. McREL provided national experts in the specific content areas for this work. They have conducted similar studies for several other states including North Dakota and Wyoming.

**Estimated Cost:**

None

**Supporting Documentation Included:**

None

**For Additional Information on this item:**

Donlynn Rice, 402-471-3240