



TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Valorie Foy

SUBJECT: Update on Accountability

Proposed Board Action:

None

Background Information:

In August of 2012 the State Board of Education approved the first accountability system for Nebraska districts- Nebraska Performance Accountability System [NePAS]. The State Board is currently reviewing the school/district accountability district due to several factors, one of which is the passage by the Nebraska Legislature of LB438, which requires that schools and districts be classified into performance levels and the three lowest performing schools be identified for intervention. A Task Force comprised of school and district personnel and NDE policy partners has been working on an accountability model since March 2014.

Estimated Cost:

NA funding provided per LB#438

Supporting Documentation Included:

NePAS 1.1 Accountability - Task Force Synthesis

For Additional Information on this item:

Valorie Foy

NePAS 1.1 Accountability Task Force Synthesis

Nebraska Department of Education

The NePAS 1.1 Accountability Task Force is comprised of 50-60 members from school districts that represent a variety of geographic locations, size of districts, and membership characteristics, so as to be representative of Nebraska school districts and Educational Service Units. Also represented are NDE policy partners. In meetings that took place in March, April, and May, the members have reviewed research on accountability, including accountability plans in other states and had the opportunity to view presentations from department members and other experts on topics such as graduation rate, student growth percentile, and subgroup/supergroup use. The format has revolved around acquiring information and perspective, participating in small and large group discussions, and then moving to consensus building about facets of the system. In April, the group participated in the development of performance level characteristics and policy statements. The Task Force will reconvene for its final steps this upcoming summer before providing recommendations to the State Board of Education Accountability Committee.

Below is a summation of preliminary Task Force work:

Priorities

- Getting all schools to improve
- Improving student achievement
- Providing assistance to schools that really need it (Investing in those in need)

Guiding Principles

- Include multiple indicators
- Incorporate trend data
- Incorporate Status, Improvement, and Growth
- Fair
- Sensitive to change
- Transparent

Include these pieces

- NeSA-Reading, Math, Science, Writing
- Four-Year Graduation Rate and Extended Graduation Rate

- Number of performance levels –at this time four is recommended, but as the group works with models, the results may call for more or fewer levels
- Identification of three lowest-performing schools as two-step process: Placement in lowest level and additional decision-making

Under Consideration

- Limiting the number of points so the scores that place schools and districts into performance levels do not rank schools and districts.
- Super/Sub-Group
The Task Force has considered several options and grappled with the variability in the size of schools in Nebraska and the goal of holding as many schools accountable as possible, while at the same time using a minimum N that is reliable. Members agree that using an unduplicated count is a priority. The group continues to compare a number of methods for identifying subgroups:
 - A supergroup of special education, English language learners, and free-and-reduced lunch students (unduplicated count)
 - Subgroups- special education, English language learner, and free-and-reduced lunch students (unduplicated count)
 - Non-proficient as the only subgroup
 - A combination or tiered model.
- Measurement of Growth
 - Student Growth Percentile
 - Adequate Growth Percentile