

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

FROM: Pat Roschewski, Director of Statewide Assessment
Gary M. Sherman, Administrator, Office of Special Education

SUBJECT: Contract for standard setting study of NeSA-AAR (Alternate Assessment Reading) and NeSA-AAM (Alternate Assessment Math)

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Authorize the Commissioner to contract with Alpine Testing Solutions for the NeSA-AAR and NeSA-AAM standard settings to occur the summer of 2011.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Nebraska State Accountability – NeSA- includes tests in grades 3-8 and 11 for students in the general population and tests for students with severe cognitive disabilities. The NeSA-AAR and NeSA-AAM alternate tests for reading and math have been developed, field tested, and will be administered to students who have the most severe cognitive disabilities. Like the NeSA tests for the general population, the alternate test development must include all the same steps for technical quality as the tests for the general population. The standard setting processes are among those steps.

During the last week in June two standard setting processes have been scheduled using panels of teachers. Alpine Testing Solutions will facilitate the processes, complete the analyses, and recommend cut score ranges for both the reading and mathematics alternate tests. The recommended cut score ranges will be brought to the State Board of Education at the July 2010 meeting.

Estimated Cost: \$79,592
Federal Funds: IDEA—PART B

Supporting Documentation Included:

For additional information on this item: Call Pat Roschewski 402-471-2495,
pat.roschewski@nebraska.gov