

# Nebraska Performance Accountability System [NePAS]

August 9, 2012

The following narrative provides extended explanation for the Nebraska Performance Accountability System (NePAS) as of August 2012. Two sections of NePAS reporting will be included:

Section I: Performance by each indicator for NePAS grade-level configurations and NePAS school district

Section II: Performance for each indicator by grade within each building and district

## **Section I**

### **Nebraska Performance Accountability System [NePAS] by NePAS Grade-Level Configurations and School District**

For each school district and NePAS “**grade-level configuration**” (as defined below) within a district, the State of the Schools Report [SOSR] will display the calculations of scale scores for all NeSA performance indicators to include status, growth, and improvement. Grades 3 and 11 will not include growth. Graduation rate will be calculated as a percentage and will include a display of school district enrollment for grades 9-12. Participation will be indicated as Met or Not Met. Except for participation, each indicator for the district and each NePAS **grade-level configuration** within the district will receive a state ranking.

“**NePAS Grade-Level Configuration**” will be defined as:

NePAS Elementary Grade-Level Configuration	Grades 3-5
NePAS Middle Grade-Level Configuration	Grades 6-8
NePAS Secondary Grade-Level Configuration	Grades 9-12

NePAS by **NePAS** Grade-Level Configuration will include the following NeSA Performance Indicators:

<b>NePAS Elementary Grade-Level Configuration (Grades 3-5) NePAS Middle Grade-Level Configuration (Grades 6-8)</b>	<b>Reporting Measures</b>	<b>Ranked</b>	
	NeSA Reading	Average Scale Score	Yes

Status	NeSA Math	Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Science	Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Writing	Average Scale Score	Yes
Improvement	NeSA Reading	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Math	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Science	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Writing	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes
Growth	NeSA Reading	Average of Differences in Scale Scores	Yes
	NeSA Math	Average of Differences in Scale Scores	Yes
Participation	NeSA Reading	Met/Not Met	No
	NeSA Math	Met/Not Met	No
	NeSA Science	Met/Not Met	No
	NeSA Writing	Met/Not Met	No

<b>NePAS Secondary Grade-Level Configuration (Grades 9-12)</b>		<b>Reporting Measures</b>	<b>Ranked</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
Status	Average NeSA Reading	Average Scale Score	Yes	
	Average NeSA Math	Average Scale Score	Yes	
	Average NeSA Science	Average Scale Score	Yes	
	Average NeSA Writing	Average Scale Score	Yes	
Improvement	Average NeSA Reading	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes	
	Average NeSA Math	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes	
	Average NeSA Science	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes	
	Average NeSA Writing	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes	
Graduation Rate	4-Year	Percent	Yes	Grades 9-12
	6-Year (Available 2013)	Percent	Yes	
Participation	NeSA Reading	Met/Not Met	No	
	NeSA Math	Met/Not Met	No	
	NeSA Science	Met/Not Met	No	
	NeSA Writing	Met/Not Met	No	

NePAS School District		Reporting Measures	Ranked	Enrollment	
Status	Average NeSA Reading	Average Scale Score	Yes		
	Average NeSA Math	Average Scale Score	Yes		
	Average NeSA Science	Average Scale Score	Yes		
	Average NeSA Writing	Average Scale Score	Yes		
Improvement	Average NeSA Reading	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes		
	Average NeSA Math	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes		
	Average NeSA Science	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes		
	Average NeSA Writing	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes		
Growth	NeSA Reading	Average of Differences in Scale Scores	Yes		
	NeSA Math	Average of Differences in Scale Scores	Yes		
Graduation Rate	4-Year	Percent	Yes		Grades 9-12
	6-Year (Available 2013)	Percent	Yes		
Participation	NeSA Reading	Met/Not Met	No		
	NeSA Math	Met/Not Met	No		
	NeSA Science	Met/Not Met	No		
	NeSA Writing	Met/Not Met	No		

## **Section II**

### **Nebraska Performance Accountability System [NePAS] by Grade within each Building and District**

For each **building** (see definition below) in a district, the State of the Schools Report [SOSR] will display the calculations of scale scores for all NeSA performance indicators for each applicable grade within the building, to include status, growth, and improvement. Participation and graduation rate will be calculated as percentage. No rankings will be assigned at the building level.

“**Building**” will be defined as the physical configuration for each schoolhouse within each school district. Currently, Nebraska has thirteen different building configurations across the state, of which the following is an **example**:

Elementary Building-Grades K-6  
Middle School Building-Grades 7-8  
Secondary Building-Grades 9-12

NePAS by **building** will include the following NeSA Performance Indicators:

	Elementary Grades by <b>Building</b> Middle Grades by <b>Building</b>	Reporting Measures by Grade	State
Status	NeSA Reading	Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Math	Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Science	Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Writing	Average Scale Score	Yes
Improvement	NeSA Reading	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Math	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Science	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Writing	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes
Growth	NeSA Reading	Average of Differences in Scale Scores	Yes
	NeSA Math	Average of Differences in Scale Scores	Yes
Participation	NeSA Reading	Percent	Yes
	NeSA Math	Percent	Yes
	NeSA Science	Percent	Yes
	NeSA Writing	Percent	Yes

	Secondary Grades by <b>Building</b>	Reporting Measures	State	Enrollment
Status	Average NeSA Reading	Average Scale Score	Yes	
	Average NeSA Math	Average Scale Score	Yes	
	Average NeSA Science	Average Scale Score	Yes	
	Average NeSA Writing	Average Scale Score	Yes	
Improvement	Average NeSA Reading	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes	
	Average NeSA Math	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes	
	Average NeSA Science	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes	
	Average NeSA Writing	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes	
Graduation Rate	4-Year	Percent	Yes	Grades 9-12

	6-Year	Percent (Available 2013)	Yes	
Participation	NeSA Reading	Percent	Yes	
	NeSA Math	Percent	Yes	
	NeSA Science	Percent	Yes	
	NeSA Writing	Percent	Yes	

	District by Grade	Reporting Measures by Grade	State
Status	NeSA Reading	Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Math	Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Science	Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Writing	Average Scale Score	Yes
Improvement	NeSA Reading	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Math	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Science	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes
	NeSA Writing	Difference of Average Scale Score	Yes
Growth	NeSA Reading	Average of Differences in Scale Scores	Yes
	NeSA Math	Average of Differences in Scale Scores	Yes
Participation	NeSA Reading	Percent	Yes
	NeSA Math	Percent	Yes
	NeSA Science	Percent	Yes
	NeSA Writing	Percent	Yes

## **Definitions of Calculations**

**Ranking** will be calculated such that the highest achieving school district receives the rank of 1. A separate rank will be calculated for each indicator with no overall rank calculated for a school district.

Additionally, tied scores within each indicator will be displayed with the same rank.

Example: If fifty school districts have a 99% graduation rate, each of the school districts will receive a rank of #1 and the district with the next lower percent will be ranked as #51.

**Status** is the average of the scale scores in each of four separate content areas: reading, mathematics, writing and science. Scores for all students tested in the grade range for the current year are included. Status can be thought of as a "snapshot" of the current achievement by grade, building, district and state.

**Improvement** (Cross-Sectional) will be calculated based on the difference between the average NeSA scale score for the current year and average scale score for the previous year in a grade. These are averages of different students each year. The average scale score is calculated as the mean of all scores from students tested in that year. Improvement is based on the performance of all students in the grades that are tested each year. The two groups of students being compared will be different because of the normal progression of students through the grades. For example, this year's fifth graders will be compared to last year's fifth graders and those fifth graders from last year will not be included in the current year's average because they have moved to the sixth grade.

**Growth** (Cohort) will be calculated in reading and mathematics by subtracting each student's scale score for the previous year from the current year scale score. The growth measure will be the average of these differences. Growth is based on tracking the scores of the same students from one year to the next. Only students who were tested in both years in the same school district will be included in the calculation, so if students move from one school district to another, they are not included in the calculations. For example, this year's fifth graders will be compared with last year's fourth graders. Note that the same scale score range is used at each grade level. Therefore a student who earns the same scale score two years in a row can be said to have achieved one year's growth. In other words, a student with a difference in scale score of zero has achieved the growth expected for a single year. Growth scores are not applicable to third grade or high school.

**Participation** will be calculated as percentage of enrolled students who take the NeSA assessment in grades tested. The target rate has been set at 95%.

**Graduation Rate** is calculated by following the students enrolled in grade 9 and calculating the percentage who have graduated after four and six years. The method to be used is the cohort four-year graduation rate defined by the US Department of Education. As data become available in 2013, the 6-year rate will be calculated as a two-year extension using the same method.

**Business Rules** that define the details of calculating all indicators will be taken from existing reports, e.g. State of the Schools or AYP, as appropriate, and include masking of groups with fewer than 10 to prevent issuance of personally identifiable information.