



REGISTER NOW

AQuESTT for Nebraska ... emPOWERED by Data

Contact: NDE Helpdesk (888-285-0556 or nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov)

The first ever ***AQuESTT for Nebraska... emPOWERED by Data*** conference will be held April 27 - 28, 2015 at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska.

The new system for Nebraska is developing and the Accountability for a Quality Education System Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT) process provides the framework for Nebraska Education.

The conference purpose is to provide district and Educational Service Unit (ESU) teams with an understanding of the emerging accountability system—AQuESTT, including the six tenets and related areas of focus along with the systems of support for Nebraska schools. In addition, information about the AQuESTT performance classification of public schools and districts and the designation of priority schools related to LB 438 will be provided along with a number of sessions that include the latest efforts in data use, tools, and training around the systems of support for Nebraska education.

Several pre-conference sessions will target specific audiences. A sampling includes a data collection NSSRS/CDC “boot camp,” Learning Forward professional learning, Career Education, and others.

Registration is now open at <http://ndeconference.education.ne.gov>. **If you have already registered for the conference, and are planning on attending the Pre-Conference Sessions, registration is now open by accessing the link above.**

Who should attend?

School districts and ESUs are encouraged to send teams to the conference to learn about key features of AQuESTT and about critical systems of support. Suggestions for team members include administrators, curriculum directors, special education directors, assessment coordinators, data stewards, school improvement team members, teacher leaders, and others involved in supporting the systems of education for every student, every day.



NCLB Program Staffing Update

Contact: Diane Stuehmer (402-471-1740 or diane.stuehmer@nebraska.gov)

With the retirement of Mike Kissler at the end of January, Brad Conner will be taking on the role of Title II, Part A Program Director. Brad has been with NDE since August, 2013 as a Title I Consultant and REAP Coordinator. As part of the Federal Programs Team, Brad will continue working with all of these programs, but the Districts he works closely with may change before the beginning of the 2015-16 school year. To contact Brad, you may call 402-471-2968 or email brad.conner@nebraska.gov.



School Improvement Grant Waiver Notice

Contact: Diane Stuehmer (402-471-1740 or diane.stuehmer@nebraska.gov) or Randy McIntyre (402-471-1749 or randy.mcintyre@nebraska.gov)

Nebraska will be requesting five waivers related to the Fiscal Year 2014 School Improvement Grant application. The complete waiver notice is available at <http://www.education.ne.gov/federalprograms/Index.html>, beneath the “Waiver Request Notices” header in the right-hand column. A listing of the waivers being requested is found below.

Comments regarding the intended waivers request are encouraged (but not required) and should be submitted via email to diane.stuehmer@nebraska.gov by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, 2015.

Waiver 1: Period of Availability of FY 2014 Funds

In order to extend the period of availability beyond September 30, 2016, waive section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C § 1225(b)) to extend the period of availability of FY 2014 SIG funds for the SEA and all of its LEAs to September 30, 2020. This waiver is for the purpose of making five-year awards to eligible LEAs.

Waiver 2: Tier II Waiver

In order to enable the State to generate new lists of Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools for its FY 2014 competition, waive paragraph (a)(2) of the definition of “persistently lowest-achieving schools” in Section I.A.3 of the SIG final requirements and incorporation of that definition in identifying Tier II schools under Section I.A.1(b) of those requirements to permit the State to include, in the pool of secondary schools from which it determines those that are the persistently lowest-achieving schools in the State, secondary schools participating under Title I, Part A of the ESEA that have not made adequate yearly progress (AYP) for at least two consecutive years or are in the State’s lowest quintile of performance based on proficiency rates on the State’s assessments in reading/language arts and mathematics combined.

Waiver 3: n-Size Waiver

In order to enable the State to generate new lists of Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools for its FY 2014 competition, waive the definition of “persistently lowest-achieving schools” in Section I.A.3 of the SIG final requirements and the use of that definition in Section I.A.1(a) and (b) of those requirements to permit the State to exclude, from the pool of schools from which it identifies the persistently lowest-achieving schools for Tier I and Tier II, any school in which the total number of students in the “all students” group in the grades assessed is less 30.

Waiver 4: School Improvement Timeline Waiver

Waive section 1116(b)(12) of the ESEA to permit LEAs to allow their Tier I or Tier II title I participating schools that will fully implement a SIG model beginning in the 2015–2016 school year to “start over” in the school improvement timeline.

Waiver 5: Schoolwide Program Waiver

Waive the 40 percent poverty eligibility threshold in section 1114(a)(1) of the ESEA to permit LEAs to implement a schoolwide program in a Tier I or Tier II Title I participating school that does not meet the poverty threshold and is fully implementing one of the seven school intervention models.



Staff Reporting 2014-2015

Contact: NDE Helpdesk (888-285-0556 or nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov)

Staff Reporting 2014-2015 upload option will be open April 3. Please **DO NOT** utilize this option unless you can upload all staff from the beginning of the school year with their original assignment(s) and add their new assignments, otherwise; the original data will be wiped out. The data downloads are available to download the staff data as you see it right now, you could download the file and make changes on the downloaded file and

reupload, but that might be more work than using the online system (see below). REMINDER: if you upload all staff and some staff have left or been reassigned, report their original assignment with a completion date [Staff Position Assignments(14):Completion Date] and add a new assignment if appropriate. Do not delete the staff person or change their original assignment to the current assignment.

Recommended option: make small changes to individual staff using the online method to avoid losing data if you cannot replicate the original file and add the changes mentioned above. If staff have left or been reassigned, leave their original assignment and add completion date [Staff Position Assignments(14):Completion Date] to the assignment and add a new assignment if appropriate. Do not delete the staff person or change their original assignment to the current assignment.



NeSA-RMS and NeSA-AA testing window

Contact: Valorie Foy (402-471-2495 or valorie.foy@nebraska.gov)

The NeSA-RMS and NeSA-AA testing window started on March 23.
The testing window will end on May 1.

On April 16th districts will have access to Preliminary NeSA-W Reports and Data Files on eDIRECT. Please review.



Special Education Post-School Outcomes - Open: April 1 - Due Date: April 30

Contact: Rita Hammitt (402-595-2092 or rita.hammitt@nebraska.gov)

The report for submitting contact information for students who exited special education in **2013-14 school year** can be found on the NDE Portal under the Data Collection tab.

Please be sure to scroll down on the report to enter each student's contact information as indicated. It is very important the student contact information is accurate to assure your students will be contacted and included in this required collection and your district's Post School Outcome report. It may be necessary to gather some of the student contact information from student's resource teachers.

Please note this collection process has been enhanced to document the timely submission of the information as this collection is considered for each district's annual federally required "determination".



Student Summary Attendance (Collection period 3: 2015-01-01 to 2015-03-15)

AUDIT WINDOW CLOSE DATE: April 15

Contact: NDE Helpdesk (888-285-0556 or nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov)

Public districts and Special Purpose systems only

Student Summary Attendance collection period 3 (2015-01-01 to 2015-03-15) is due April 1.
Audit Window Close date April 15.

Data used for Excessive Absenteeism Quarterly Count and Extract for State Aid Calculation.

HOW TO CONTACT THE NDE HELPDESK

There are three ways to contact the NDE Helpdesk with questions.

All three ways get to the same place, so please only use one of the following options.

If you send more than one request this may delay our response as we coordinate all requests.

1. Submit a "Helpdesk Request" from your portal account. After logging into the NDE Portal, it is available in the upper right corner of the Collection Announcement page. This will be the fastest way to get your request to the NDE Helpdesk.

OR

2. Email: nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov

OR

3. Call Toll Free: 888-285-0556

Please leave your full name, organization, call back number and a brief description of your question.

ALSO: If you have contacted the NDE Program Staff person, please do not also contact the Helpdesk. Multiple contacts will delay the response.

THANK YOU!

NDE Bulletin now available in RSS Feed

Contact: NDE Helpdesk (888-285-0556 or nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov)

We have added an RSS feed that users can subscribe to. Don't forget that the current and past NDE Bulletins can always be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/ndebulletins/index.html>. The RSS feature can be found at the above webpage in the upper right hand corner (orange icon). RSS feeds can be used with Outlook and a number of web-based feed readers. At this time we will also continue to send the bulletin out via e-mail.

Ginny Carter, Helpdesk Manager

Nebraska Department of Education - Data, Research and Evaluation

301 Centennial Mall South - Lincoln, NE 68509

ginny.carter@nebraska.gov 402-471-2369

Helpdesk: Toll Free 888-285-0556

Email: nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov