



**2016 AQuESTT Conference – April 18-19, 2016**

**“Every Student Everyday – Continuing to Improve with Data Conference”**

Contact: Debe Dockhorn (402-471-2748 or [debe.dockhorn@nebraska.gov](mailto:debe.dockhorn@nebraska.gov))

**Registration is now open!** Please follow this link to register:

[http://ndeconference.education.ne.gov/cf\\_Conference\\_2016.aspx?CID=9](http://ndeconference.education.ne.gov/cf_Conference_2016.aspx?CID=9)

**Conference-At-A-Glance (draft) is now available on the conference website listed above.**

**The AQuESTT Every Student Every Day – Continuing to Improve with Data Conference Keynote flyer can be found by following this link:**

<https://www.education.ne.gov/documents/HomePage/2016AQuESTTKeynoteFlyer.pdf>

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the conference is to support school and district improvement efforts focused on the tenets of AQuESTT (i.e., College and Career Ready; Educator Effectiveness; Assessment; Positive Partnerships, Relationships & Student Success; Transitions; and Educational Opportunities and Access). The conference is also designed to broaden educator understanding of the roles of research and evaluation, emerging and best practices, and professional learning in achieving student success. In addition to sessions that focus on these topics, there will also be opportunities to learn about the latest efforts in data use, tools, and training around systems of support for Nebraska schools. Finally, we are pleased to announce the National Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) will be joining us in Nebraska to provide a series of timely and appropriate sessions on student data privacy and security best practices.

**Who should attend?**

School districts and Educational Service Units are encouraged to send teams to the conference to maximize opportunities for professional learning that will benefit their students and schools. Suggestions for team members include school and district administrators, curriculum directors, special education directors, assessment coordinators, school improvement team members, data stewards, teacher leaders, and others involved in supporting systems of education for every student, every day.

Please review the two-page conference flyer at

<http://ndeconference.education.ne.gov/Documents/2016/AQuESTT2016Flyer.pdf>



**ADVISER Dashboard Updated Vendor Certification Information Now Available**

Contact: Dean Folkers (402-471-4740 or [dean.folkers@nebraska.gov](mailto:dean.folkers@nebraska.gov))

The Nebraska Department of Education team has been working one-on-one with Student Information System (SIS) vendors to prepare for certification of their respective student information systems (SIS). Beginning July 1, 2014, all Nebraska SIS vendors were initially engaged to get started with creating the connection's to the Nebraska Education Data Standards (NEDS) built from Ed-Fi.

The current status of implementation for all Student Information Systems (SIS) operating in Nebraska is available here: [Vendor Status](#).

The target date for SIS vendors to be certified in Nebraska is **July 1, 2017**.

Additional information can be found at the following web address:

[https://www.education.ne.gov/DataServices/SLDS\\_Grant/SISVendorCertification.html](https://www.education.ne.gov/DataServices/SLDS_Grant/SISVendorCertification.html)



**ADVISER Early Adopter Program II (EAP II) Kick off Meeting (Preconference Session)**

Contact: Russ Masco ([russ.masco@nebraska.gov](mailto:russ.masco@nebraska.gov))

This is a reminder to all School Districts that will be participating at the ADVISER EAPII Kickoff meeting that invitations were sent to the contacts submitted on their applications, in this case, the School District Superintendents, on March 16. If you have not received the invitation please check with NDE or email Russ Masco @ [russ.masco@nebraska.gov](mailto:russ.masco@nebraska.gov). The preconference session will be at the AQuESTT Conference on April 18 starting at 9.00 am till 11.00 am.



**NSSRS Validation Quick Reference Guide Available**

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

We have put together a new quick reference guide for you to better utilize the NSSRS Validation. The NSSRS Validation Quick reference Guide is now available on the NSSRS Resources page at: <https://www.education.ne.gov/nssrs/Resources.html> under the “NSSRS Validations” section. NSSRS Validation is a web-based system accessed via the [NDE Portal](#) used to validate and verify accuracy of submitted data via NSSRS. Features include Validation Errors and Warnings, Verification Reports, Interactive Lookups and Analysis Tools.

**REMINDER!**

**DHHS Superintendent Letter – OPENS: April 10**

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

Beginning on April 10, the DHHS Superintendent Letter will be available for districts to review. This collection can be found under the Data Collections tab in the NDE Portal. The DHHS Superintendent Letter was developed by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services - Division of Children and Family Services to notify school districts when any of their students become state wards and their current status in the child welfare system. Historically, these letters were mailed or faxed to the Superintendent and Principal of the school where the state ward was enrolled. This project automates that process, ensuring the timely, secure and accurate delivery of the DHHS Superintendent Letter.

**REMINDER!**

**Staff Reporting 2015-2016 – Upload Option Available April 1**

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

Staff Reporting 2015-2016 upload option will be open April 1. 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.



### **REVISED NSSRS Student Validation Error**

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

**Public Districts Only**

Validation Error 571 has been revised. The error was updated to only validate against students who 1) have a Special Education Snapshot **and** 2) have a Placement Type other than 4. Previously, this error also validated against students who did not have a Special Education Snapshot; this portion of the validation has been removed.

**Error #571 - STUDENT Resident District is different from Reporting District (County District Number), but SCHOOL ENROLL Residence Status = Not Applicable – (STUDENT & SCHOOL ENROLL)** The Resident District (District of Residence) listed in STUDENT is different from the District (County District Number), but the Residence Status listed in SCHOOL ENROLL is (0) Not Applicable. If the Residence District is different from the District where the student is enrolled, then a Residence Status must be listed. (Only applies to Public Districts with Special Education snapshot with placement type other than '4 - Nonpublic Placement - Parental Placement, Special Education Services, Student on Equitable Services Plan')



### **ILCD 2.0 – 2014-2015 Special Education Performance Report Review –**

**AUDIT WINDOW DUE DATE: April 8**

Contact: NDE Special Education Regional Representative- <http://www.education.ne.gov/SPED/contact.html>

**Audit Window: March 24 – April 8**

The 2014-2015 Special Education Performance Reports are now available on the ILCD 2.0 secure site for School District and Planning Region Team review. The audit window provides an opportunity for school districts/PRTs to review their data and see how it compares with the state target. It also provides a window for correction if an NDE reporting error is discovered. Please contact your special education regional representative with any questions or concerns. The audit window closes on April 8, after which the school district/PRT determinations will be prepared.



### **Student Summary Attendance (Collection Period 3: 2016-01-01 to 2016-03-15)**

**AUDIT WINDOW DUE DATE: April 15**

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

**Public districts and Special Purpose systems only**

Student Summary Attendance collection period 3 (2016-01-01 to 2016-03-15) is due April 1.  
Audit Window Close date April 15.

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

  
**REMINDER!**

**First Year Teacher Survey – DUE DATE: April 25**

Contact: [nde.research@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.research@nebraska.gov)

Selected principals that have first year teachers who completed their teacher preparation program at a Nebraska institution should have received the First Year Teacher Survey from [nde.research@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.research@nebraska.gov) on or about March 14. Principals who have not yet responded to this brief survey are asked to please do so as soon as possible, as the survey will close on or about **April 25**. The intent of the First Year Teacher Survey is to obtain critical and consistent program effectiveness information from P-12 school partners that can be used by Nebraska teacher preparation institutions for continuous improvement.

  
**REMINDER!**

**Special Education Post-School Outcomes – OPENED: April 1 – DUE DATE: April 30**

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

**Public Districts Only**

The report for submitting contact information for students with a disability who exited special education in 2014-2015 school year is located on the NDE Portal under the Data Collection tab. Accurate student contact information will assure your students will be contacted and included in this required Post School Outcome collection. Please be sure to scroll down on the report to enter each student's contact information as indicated. This collection is considered for each school district's annual federally required "determination".

  
**REMINDER!**

**IDEA MOE for Compliance Standard – OPENED: March 15 – DUE DATE: May 2**

Contact: Pete Biaggio (402-471-4308 or [pete.biaggio@nebraska.gov](mailto:pete.biaggio@nebraska.gov))

IDEA Part B Special Education Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Application for Compliance Standard for school year 2014-2015 will open on March 15, 2016. The report may be accessed within the NDE Portal under the Data Collection tab.

School district receipt of IDEA dollars is contingent upon maintaining fiscal effort for Special Education. Districts must expend a greater or equal amount of local or local/state funds from one year to the next to meet the MOE requirement. Final calculations based on actual special education school district expenditures/receipts/data obtained from the 2014-2015 AFR and NSSRS are available and have been compared to the highest levels of fiscal effort. As a result, calculations for meeting the IDEA MOE Compliance Standard may have resulted in a MOE excess or shortage that requires school district review for determination of adjustments or credits that could modify the MOE level.

  
**REMINDER!**

**2016-2017 Perkins reVISION Initial Competitive Grant –**

**OPENED: March 23 – DUE DATE: May 6**

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

The 2016-2017 Perkins reVISION Initial Competitive Grant application is now available in the GMS to assist local school districts in completing the reVISION Career Education strategic planning process and to school districts

who have not received this grant in the past. For information regarding this grant, please see <https://www.education.ne.gov/nce/revision.html>



### **NeSA-RMSW 2015-2016 Key Dates**

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

Key dates for NeSA-RMSW are presented in the following table.

eDIRECT Test Setup for NeSA-RMS available to Districts. Check student information in Test Setup => Students for any needed corrections – accommodations, demographics, or testing codes.	February 22 – May 6
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Additional information on NeSA testing is available at the Statewide Assessment Website:

<http://www.education.ne.gov/Assessment/Index.html>

### **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](mailto:nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov)

**OR**

3. Call Toll Free: 888-285-0556 – **This is a Voicemail line ONLY.**

**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 Bulletins: Past and Present:**

Current and past NDE Bulletins can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/ndebulletins/index.html>. We will also continue to send the bulletin out via e-mail.

***Denise Schuyler***

*Data, Research, and Evaluation - NDE IT Helpdesk Specialist*



*Helpdesk: 888-285-0556 – [nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov)*

*Email: [denise.schuyler@nebraska.gov](mailto:denise.schuyler@nebraska.gov)*