

September 4, 2008

State of the Schools Report

The State of the Schools Report Preview will open again at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 8, 2008. This second opportunity for districts to review their data will close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 19, 2008. The State of the Schools Report for preview is on the NDE portal (<http://portal.nde.state.ne.us>) under the tab marked "Data Collections" as "Student Performance Reporting System 2008 (STARS)".

Thanks to staff auditing their data, we've learned that the "New Immigrant" decisions from the Consolidated Data Collection (CDC) were not applied as intended. We've also taken steps to improve the display of the new Science assessment results, resolved some issues around grades included in certain buildings, and addressed some display presentation issues. Note: The changes to the AYP process announced in the last NDE Bulletin have not been made. (See below)

Several districts have questioned their participation rates and discovered that their rates are low because **Assessment Fact** and **Assessment Response** templates were not submitted for students who took alternate assessments. This is an area that you might want to check if your participation rates are lower than anticipated.

AYP Appeals, Requests to Change Data and Explanations

Clarification to distinguish between appeals and requests to change data: An AYP Appeal should be submitted only if you feel that there is an error in the way the AYP decision was calculated. If inaccurate data has resulted in an inappropriate AYP decision, you should submit a Request to Change Data. AYP Appeals should not be submitted now as we are in the process of recalculating all AYP decisions based on the changes required by the U. S. Department of Education. Districts will have an opportunity to review the revised AYP decisions, and submit any AYP Appeals, before the State of the Schools Report is opened to the public.

Requests to Change Data and Explanations are due by September 19, 2008. Please watch these NDE Bulletins for further information on the changes in AYP.

NSSRS Reminders:

Staff and Staff Assignment templates are due September 15. See the 2008-2009 NSSRS Template Calendar (<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/nssrs/Calendar.htm>) for details.

Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, Educational Service Unit (ESU) staff will submit all Staff and Staff Assignment records for ESU staff providing reportable services to districts/systems. See the 2008-2009 Staff templates instruction manual (<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/nssrs/Documents.htm>) for details.

Data Quality Workshops

Below are the dates, locations, and phone numbers of each of training session. Please contact any of the ESU's directly to sign up for the workshop at that location. We look forward to seeing you.

Sept. 23, ESU 3, Omaha 402-597-4800
Oct. 16, ESU 16, North Platte 308-284-8481
Oct. 23, ESU 13, Scottsbluff 308-635-3696
Nov. 5, ESU 1, Wakefield 402-287-2061
Nov 13, ESU 10, Kearney 308-237-5927
Dec. 2, ESU 5, Beatrice 402-223-5277