

These NDE Bulletins on NSSRS/STARS/NCLB will include information on any or all of these areas and will be used to provide updated information or clarifications. We are sending the NDE Bulletins to as many people as possible to ensure the information gets to the appropriate people. Please share this with the appropriate people or delete if the information does not affect you. All previous NDE Bulletins are now posted on the NDE homepage for easy reference. Thank you.

Rule 10 Accreditation Hearings

The Nebraska Department of Education will hold a videoconference rule-making hearing on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, commencing at 10:00 a.m. (Central Time) on revisions to Title 92, *Nebraska Administrative Code*, Chapter 10 (Rule 10), *Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools*. The PURPOSE of the proposed revisions is to align Rule 10 with legislation passed in the 2008 legislative session, including the **revised Language Arts Standards**.

Testimony will be received from six separate videoconference sites: **Beatrice** – Beatrice State Developmental Center, 3000 Lincoln Blvd., Med. Center, Conf. Rom. #2, Beatrice, NE ; **Lincoln** – Lincoln Executive Building, Suite 103, 521 S. 14th Street, Lincoln, NE; **Kearney** – Kearney Public Library, 2020 1st Avenue, 2nd floor, Kearney, NE; **Norfolk** – Northeast Community College, Maclay Building, Room 122, 801 East Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, NE; **North Platte** – Educational Service Unit #16, Distance Learning Rm., 1221 W. 17th Street, North Platte, NE; and, **Scottsbluff** – Panhandle Learning Center, High Plains Room, 4502 Avenue “I”, Scottsbluff, NE 69361. A copy of the hearing draft for this Rule is available on the Nebraska Department of Education’s webpage at: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/LEGAL/drafts.html>

All INTERESTED PERSONS are invited to ATTEND and TESTIFY at the locations of the hearing. Interested persons may also submit written comments to the Nebraska Department of Education prior to the hearing, and those comments will be made a part of the hearing record at the time of the hearing.

Stimulus Package Funds – American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA)

The Department (NDE) has not released information on the ARRA since we have not yet received guidance, or anything definite, from the U. S. Department of Education (USDE). We will share what we learn as it becomes available. Some districts have checked the USDE website and found a list of Title I amounts for Nebraska’s districts. NOTE: The amounts on this list are not accurate. Nebraska has had approval to determine Title I allocations for districts with less than 20,000 census population for many years and will continue to do so with the Title I funds in ARRA funds. Nebraska uses an average of census low-income and the number of students eligible for free lunch for the formula counts as census data alone is not very accurate with our small districts.

Because there is so little known about the funds that will be available from the ARRA, we have extended the due date for finalizing consortia membership for the 2009-10 NCLB Consolidated Application. This information is now due by March 20, 2009.

REAP

A new spreadsheet from the USDE that lists the amount of funds available now for draw-down has been posted to the NCLB homepage at: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/federalprograms/index.htm>

State of the Schools Report

Teacher salary data has been added to the State of the Schools Report. It also contains changes in data requested by districts as of this date.

Reminders:

2/27/2009

NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability) - Reminder

A one hour telecast on the plan for piloting the new state Reading test will be broadcast on Friday, February 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. (Central Time) on NEBSAT 105 and State Channel 04.

NCLB 2008-09 Consolidated Application

Districts/ESUs with funds remaining at closeout of the 2007-08 projects are reminded that all carryover funds must be amended into the current year (2008-09) application. *With the new Page-lock feature in the grants management system, carryover funds do not appear on the Allocations Page until you create an amendment.*