

NDE Bulletin
June 3, 2010

Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) (This information was also sent to District Assessment Coordinators last week.)
Contact: Statewide Assessment Office (402-471-2495)

NeSA-Writing

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for statewide writing has been posted at: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/assessment/index.html>. This RFP will change the assessment of writing in the 2010-11 school year and includes the movement to online writing administration and analytical or trait-based scoring.

Release of NeSA Results

After standard setting June 28, 29, and 30, and the approval of the cut scores by the State Board of Education on July 8th, districts should have NeSA final reports from DRC on August 16th and the NeSA-AAR reports from the NDE. As noted in the timetable below, on August 17th there will be a public release of the average state scale scores, scale scores by district and by building. No sub scores, disaggregated data, or AYP decisions will be released to the public until the State of the Schools Report, scheduled for October 1st.

NEW: NeSA Testing of 11th graders

The administration of NeSA tests to students in 11th grade has been problematic and has generated questions in Nebraska high schools. High school students, when earning credit, may be classified in more than one grade level in any given year. For example, students could be enrolled as 10th graders in September, and by the time the NeSA assessment window arrives, they might be classified as 12th graders and miss the assessments designated for 11th grade.

Starting in the 2010-11 testing administration of NeSA assessments, high school students will be tested in the year prior to their expected graduation year rather than their assigned grade level. A student's "expected graduation year" or cohort is determined by adding four years to the school year in which the student enters grade nine for the first time. For example, a student with a Cohort Year of 2012 will take his/her assessment tests in 2011. The Cohort Year is based on NSSRS's Expected Graduation Year ([Student: Expected Graduation Timeframe (53)] or [Student Snapshot: Expected Graduation Timeframe (53)]), which districts assign to all students entering high school.

Revised AYP Guidance

Contact: Title I Office (402-471-2481)

The AYP Guidance has been revised to include (a) the transition of Reading AYP to NeSA, (b) the new graduation rate State Goal of 90% and the "show progress" requirement of 2 percentage points, and (c) a new procedure for AYP decisions for very small schools with no groups of at least 30 students. The AYP Guidance (2010) is at: <http://www.education.ne.gov/Assessment/AssessmentReporting.htm>

NSSRS Validation: Validation Errors and Warnings Grouped by Program Area

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

Beginning Wednesday, June 9, validation errors and warnings within NSSRS Validation will be grouped by program area, for example: Assessment, Career Education, Cohort, Early Childhood, High Ability Learners, Interim Programs, Special Education, Staff, State Aid, Student, Title I, etc. The purpose of organizing NSSRS validations by program area is to assist district data stewards by making it easier for district and NDE program staff to focus on the errors that adversely impact their program. Please note the “Interactive List of NSSRS Data Validations” on the NSSRS Documents web page (<http://www.education.ne.gov/nssrs/Documents.htm>) will be updated to reflect these groupings on June 9.

Consolidated Data Collections

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

The following collections opened on May 3, 2010 in the Consolidated Data Collection and are due June 30, 2010. You can check the Calendar in the Consolidated Data Collections to see if your District/System should be reporting this data. The Consolidated Data Collection is found in the Portal at:

<https://portal.nde.state.ne.us/Site/DesktopDefault.aspx>

- Annual Participation Report
- Days in Session/Instructional Program Hours
- Elementary Class Size
- ESU/District/System/School Information Report
- Pupil Transportation Report
- Substitute Teachers
- Report of Suspensions/Expulsions
- State of the Schools Report

Upcoming Dates for the State of the Schools Report

May 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All corrections to current year Curriculum Reports due
June 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOSR Preview 2010 opens with data available on the day after submission • NCLB Qualified Teacher data displayed for district preview
June 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tentative date for adding NeSA-Writing results to SOSR Preview 2010 • AYP Math decisions available when NeSA-writing results are added
June 28 – 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards Setting for NeSA
June 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due date for submissions in NSSRS and CDC • HOU SSE forms for NCLB Qualified Teachers due
July 1 – 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AYP Appeals accepted for Math AYP decisions
July 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Board Meeting to approve the achievement standards for NeSA- Reading • AYP State goals set after submission and approval by U. S. Department of Education

July 22- 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSSRS system unavailable for scheduled maintenance and upgrades
August 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districts receive their own NeSA – Reading results from NDE • AYP Reading decisions added to SOSR Preview 2010* • AYP Appeals accepted for Reading AYP decisions (30 days after posting)* <p>*Watch for announcements on AYP Reading decisions as this date is tentative</p>
August 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NeSA – Reading results posted on the NDE homepage (initial release will be files with the results for the all students group for all schools and districts)
August 2 – 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Window for correcting 2009-10 data
August 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSSRS opens for 2010-11 school year data
October 16 – November 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSSRS 2009-10 Resubmission window open for drop-out and completer data
October 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release of the State of the Schools Report for the 2009-10 school year