

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.

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

The Department has created a link on our webpage to provide information to Nebraska schools on ARRA. Our website also contains links to the U. S. Department of Education website for ARRA and the federal website for ARRA. Currently, we are awaiting guidance from the Secretary of Education on many features of ARRA that will eventually provide funds to schools in Nebraska. When we have specific information on any of the provisions of ARRA that apply to school districts in Nebraska, we will post that information on our webpage.

We are aware that various documents have been circulated regarding estimated funds that Nebraska will receive and estimates that local school districts in Nebraska will receive as a result of ARRA. Please keep in mind that all of these documents are just estimates and many of those estimates are not entirely accurate for individual Nebraska school districts.

Reminders:

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.*

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.