

NDE Bulletin
March 26, 2010

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) Assurances

Contact: Marilyn Peterson at 402-471-3504 or Marilyn.peterson@nebraska.gov

Nebraska is close to receiving final approval on the SFSF Application Phase II. This is the State's plan to meet all of the activities and reporting requirements of the four SFSF assurances: (a) achieving equity in teacher distribution, (b) improving collection and use of data, (c) standards and assessments, and (d) supporting struggling schools.

The NDE ARRA website at:

<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ARRA/State%20Fiscal%20Stabilization%20Fund.html> contains guidance and information from the U. S. Department of Education and NDE explaining the four assurances and the requirements under each. Each component of the SFSF plan requires public reporting and will be posted here, including the State's application when it is approved. Every report and data collection resulting from the 37 indicators and descriptors in the SFSF Application Phase II will also be posted at this site.

The indicators and descriptors can be found in [ARRA Stabilization Funds Application Plan](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ARRA/PowerPoint/ARRA%20Stabilization%20Funds%20Application%20Plan.ppt) (<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ARRA/PowerPoint/ARRA%20Stabilization%20Funds%20Application%20Plan.ppt>), the ARRA telecasts under "Presentations" on the ARRA main page, or under NCLB <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/federalprograms/index.htm>.

A recent addition, found under [Part 3: Data Collection, Public Reporting, and Planning](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ARRA/Data_Collection_Public_Reporting.html) (http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ARRA/Data_Collection_Public_Reporting.html), is the State's approved definition and process for identifying persistently lowest-achieving schools (PLAS). When the SFSF Application Phase II is approved, NDE will first notify all districts involved and then it will post the list of Nebraska's persistently lowest-achieving schools at this location.

Some of the files and information provided now, with names reflecting various indicators, will be incorporated into the SFSF Application Phase II document when it is approved so that viewers can understand how the parts fit together.

Section 1512 Reporting

Contact: Ron Mowrey 402-471-2396 or ron.mowrey@nebraska.gov

Section 1512 of ARRA requires reporting of jobs created/saved and vendor information on a quarterly basis. NDE will collect this information from every sub-recipient (district, ESU or School Food Authority) through an ARRA Section 1512 Reporting program in the Consolidated Data Collection in the NDE Portal: <http://portal.nde.state.ne.us>

ARRA Section 1512 Reporting for the quarter ending on March 31 is open now and will remain open for submissions through April 5, 2010. Every sub-recipient must complete the reporting requirements, even if there has not been any payment(s) received or new jobs saved/retained. **This includes ESU/Districts that received Title II, Part D Technology Grants in January.** Failure to comply with this reporting requirement will put the sub-recipients out of compliance and jeopardize receipt of all federal funds

until the next reporting period. The Department has developed Frequently Asked Questions located at: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ARRA/PDF/ARRA%20JobsAccountabilityActQA.pdf>

Nebraska Student and Staff Record System (NSSRS)

Contact NDE Helpdesk at nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov or 888-285-0556

Have you checked your NSSRS validation page lately? Now might be a good time to clean up any validation errors and warnings; especially those affecting student data before the end of year collection begins. NDE Helpdesk staff and trainers are available to assist with correcting any errors and warnings.

Curriculum Reporting System

Contact: Pam Tagart 402-471-4735 or pam.tagart@nebraska.gov

Many thanks to all districts/systems for the timely reporting of the courses teachers teach using the new Curriculum Reporting System. Special thanks to the pilot districts for the ideas and assistance in designing the system and preparing the instructions. This new system and timely collection of this data will enable NDE to prepare and disseminate the reports that use this data much sooner than in the past.

Annual Data Conference

Contact: Bob Beecham (402)471-4740 or bob.beecham@nebraska.gov

The 2010 Data Conference is scheduled for May 17-18, 2010. The conference will begin on Monday, May 17 at 1:00 PM with a presentation by Commissioner Breed. The conference will wrap up mid afternoon on Tuesday, May 18. We are now accepting registrations on the conference website at <http://nedatapartnership.org/>