

NDE Bulletin

March 11, 2009

NSSRS Template Instruction Manuals

Minor revisions were published on February 27, 2009 to the "Student", "Staff", and "Assessment" 2008-2009 NSSRS template instruction manuals available on the NSSRS Documents web page (<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/nssrs/Documents.htm>). The focus of most changes was to add clarifying language for nonpublic systems. Please refer to the Change Summary in Appendix A of each document for details.

State of the Schools Report

The State of the Schools Report now reflects changes in data requested by districts as of this date.

Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA)

1. Wednesday March 11 – 8:00 AM Central Time – State Reading Practice Tests are available by going to the Standards and Assessment Link off of the NDE Homepage (www.nde.state.ne.us/assessment/)
 - a. The practice tests to try the online testing process (not Nebraska items) will be up tomorrow.
 - b. The "mini tests" (one Nebraska passage per grade plus items), the answers, the Tables of Specifications, and the Performance Level Descriptors will be available tomorrow morning.
2. The **Assessment Cohort** through UNL is now open for registration. Stipends are paid for tuition. If interested, please go to <http://cehs.unl.edu/nac> to complete the online form for the program of their choice. Questions should be directed to Del Harnisch at Harnisch@unl.edu

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

The U. S. Department of Education has released guidance on the education funds available for IDEA, Title I, Part A, the Governor's Stabilization Fund and an overview of Education in ARRA. The guidance can be found at: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html>