

NDE Bulletin
May 12, 2011

ERROR Messages in GMS Payment System

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

We've received reports that several people are getting an error in the GMS Payment system that displays as 'Invalid character in a Base-64 string.' This can usually be resolved by clearing cookies on the user's machine. Instructions for doing so are specific to the browser being used. For Internet Explorer versions 8 & 9,

- Click on Tools on the Menu Bar
- Select Delete Browsing History
- Make sure Cookies and Temporary Internet Files are checked (be careful – you may not want passwords or history to be checked)
- Press Delete
- Exit/Close all internet pages

If this process does not resolve the error, please contact your local network staff, or the NDE Helpdesk for further assistance.

ARRA/ESEA Update Telecast

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

NEW– We have added a presentation on the new Staff ID system and information on a new IDEA Consolidated Application in the grants management system. This means the telecast will take more than one hour.

The next ARRA/ESEA Update will be broadcast on May 17, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. (Central Daylight Time) on NET*SAT 105 and State channel 04. The powerpoint and video will be available after the broadcast at: <http://www.education.ne.gov/federalprograms/nclbupdates/index.htm>. A DVD will be sent to each ESU.

***NEW* NDE Helpdesk Request Now on the Portal**

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

The NDE Helpdesk Team is pleased to announce a new and more efficient way to submit your Helpdesk requests. When you log on to the NDE Portal you will find a new link in the upper right hand corner labeled "Helpdesk Request". Clicking on this link will take you to the Helpdesk Request form where you can provide a description of your problem or questions and submit attachments if necessary. Once you click on the Send Helpdesk Request link, the information automatically generates a ticket in our system, and immediately places the ticket in the queue. NDE Helpdesk staff are always striving to ensure we answer your questions as effectively and efficiently as possible. This new feature will enable us to dedicate more resources to answering your questions instead of manually entering tickets.

NSSRS Verification Reports: Perkins

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

Perkins Verification I and Perkins Verification II reports now reflect new ethnicity/race codes (1997 Standards). Verification reports generated for school years prior to 2010-2011 will display 0 (zero) for both of the new codes (PI – Pacific Islander and MU – Two or More Races).

Consolidated Data Collections

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

The following collections are now open in the Consolidated Data Collection and are due June 30, 2011. Check the Calendar in the Consolidated Data Collections for Districts/Systems that need to submit the reports. 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

ESU/District/System/School Information Report

Nonpublic High School Completer Report

State of the Schools Report

Substitute Teachers

Report of Suspensions/Expulsions

Reminders:

Guidance for Reporting Student Grades Template

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

Answers to many questions regarding the reporting of the NSSRS Student Grades template can be found in the “Guidance for Reporting Student Grades Template” document published in February 2011. A copy of this document can be obtained from the “Program-specific Information” section of the “NSSRS Resources” web page

(http://www.education.ne.gov/nssrs/Resources.html#Program_Specific_Information). District staff are encouraged to review this document as they prepare to submit this information.

Education Jobs Application – due May 16th

The Education Jobs application is available through the Portal under the GMS tab.

ARRA Funds

A reminder that American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) end soon. Reimbursement request’s Final Report for State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) is due by August 30, 2011. Final Reports for all other ARRA funds (IDEA, Title I, Technology, etc.) are due by September 30, 2011 with the exception of the Section 1003(G) School Improvement Grants.

Nutrition Services: Direct Certification Update for Public and Nonpublic Schools

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

District/system staff can access the “Qualified Student List Directly Certified as Free” report to review up-to date information on students who qualify for free meals. The report is located on the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) website and click on the ‘All Dates Combined’ in the list date to view all students. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) sends nightly SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) data.

Previously, the extract was sent every quarter. NDE matches students with the DHHS extract to allow students to be approved for free meals without any application from the family for school meal benefits.

The CNP website is located at <http://cnp.education.ne.gov/>

NDE Staff ID and NDE Staff ID Download open

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

District/system staff can access the NDE Staff ID and NDE Staff ID Download applications. In NDE Staff ID Download, there are four files available for download containing the NDE Staff ID; 1) has 2010-2011 staff reported by your district/system 2) has a file with the last four years of staff reported by your district/system, 3) has substitute teachers reported for 2010-2011 by your district/system (only available if substitute teachers have been reported by your district/system in the CDC), and 4) has substitute teachers for the last 5 schools years reported by your district/system. These files may be used for import into the district/system's staff data system. Staff that have certification or were employees of another Nebraska district will have an NDE Staff ID, and can be found using the NDE Staff ID application's search feature. Staff that do not have a certificate or have not worked in another Nebraska school district will need to have an NDE Staff ID assigned. All staff will be reported with the NDE Staff ID in 2011-2012, as the social security number will no longer be accepted in NSSRS Staff Reporting.

The documentation is located on the NSSRS Resources page available at <http://www.education.ne.gov/nssrs/>

State of the Schools Report Timeline

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

Revision as of May 12th highlighted and underlined.

This timeline of activities for the collection and public release of the 2010-11 State of the Schools Report (SOSR) will be updated as needed. For information on submissions, please see the NSSRS Calendar at <http://www.education.ne.gov/nssrs/Resources.html#Calendar>

NEW: The State of the Schools (SOSR) Preview 2010-11, found in the NDE Portal under Data Collections, will open on June 1. The SOSR Preview 2010-11 displays the data submitted by districts on the next business day. This year, the SOSR Preview will have two new displays:

- The number and achievement (performance on NeSA tests when it becomes available) of students considered to be Highly Mobile as required in Nebraska law 79,760.05.
 - Information on the process of identifying Highly Mobile students and data was presented at the Data Conference (April 18-19, 2011) and will soon be posted on the NSSRS website. Watch the NDE Bulletin for dates and locations.
- The Cohort Four-Year Graduation data for all subgroups in all high schools - this will be **preliminary** data until any summer graduate data is submitted (August 1 – 12). The Cohort Four-Year Graduation rates will be published on the 2010-11 State of the Schools Report but are not the official graduation rate for 2010-11 and will not be used for AYP's Other Academic Indicator until the 2011-12 school year.
 - Reminder: The Graduation Cohort Analysis Tool is available now and accessed via NSSRS Validation.

Mar. 21 – Apr. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corrections to current year Curriculum Reports allowed
April 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districts receive Grades 4 and 8 NeSA Writing results
June 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOSR Preview 2011 opens with data displayed on the day after submission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEW REPORTS: Cohort 4-Year Graduation Data and Highly Mobile students
June 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tentative date for adding NeSA-Writing results to the SOSR Preview 2011
June 27 – July 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards Setting for NeSA – Math and NeSA, Alternate Assessment Math, and Alternate Assessment Reading
June 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due date for submissions in NSSRS and CDC (See NSSRS Calendar) • HOUSSE forms for NCLB Qualified Teachers due
July 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Board Meeting to approve the achievement standards for NeSA-M, NeSA – AAM, and NeSA - AAR • AYP State goals set and submitted for 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 1 – 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSSRS 2010-11 Corrections Window including submission of summer graduate data (See NSSRS Calendar)
<u>August 15</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Districts receive their own NeSA – Reading and Math and Writing results from DRC</u>
<u>August 29</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>NeSA – Reading and Math results posted on the NDE homepage. The Initial public release will be files with the results for the all students group for schools and districts.</u>
August 1 – 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Window for correcting 2010-11 data
August 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSSRS opens for 2011-12 school year data
Mid-September*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AYP decisions posted on the SOSR Review 2011 • Districts have 30 days to submit appeals of AYP decisions <p>*Watch for announcements in NDE Bulletins</p>
October 18 – November 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSSRS 2010-11 Resubmission window open (See NSSRS Calendar)
October 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release of the State of the Schools Report for the 2010-11 school year