

These NDE Bulletins provide updated information on the latest events/topics. 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.

NeSA – Nebraska State Accountability – Reading Test

Nebraska will begin field testing of NeSA-R this month, April 13 through May 1. Test data collected from the reading test will be used to evaluate items for development of operational tests for 2010. No student reports will be available for the 2009 field testing. Along with current information about NeSA, test manuals for both the online and the paper/pencil tests will be available on the Statewide Assessment website: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/Assessment/index.html>.

Materials for the paper/pencil tests (test booklets, answer sheets, and admin manuals) will be sent to the designated district assessment contact by FedEx to arrive March 31 – April 1. Usernames and passwords will be emailed to the designated district assessment contact on March 30. Schools not taking the paper/pencil test are welcome to have their students take the online version. Schools can select specific grades to participate or all grades. If participating in the online version, please include all students in the selected grades. If you have any questions about NeSA-R registration, contact the Statewide Assessment office – (402) 471-2495. If you need assistance with either assessment contact the following customer service center – DRC’s Nebraska Customer Service, (866) 342-6280, necustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com, Fax: (763) 268-3007.

Each district can participate in the “practice” tests (different from field tests) before participating in the field testing. The “practice” tests were developed to give students a feel for the reading assessment items being presented on the field tests. The results from the “practice” are not used for item selection as these items have been released. There are two practice tests at this time:

- A paper/pencil version on the Statewide Assessment website (one for each grade): <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/Assessment/index.html>.
- An online version on the CAL website – (Before you can do the tutorial and practice tests on CAL, you will need to download the software) – see link on the Statewide Assessment website: <http://NeSA.caltesting.org>

Usernames and Passwords for Online testing sent to districts. CAL Management Tools Available	March 30
District Receipt of Paper/Pencil Test Materials	March 31-April 1
Online Test Session Tickets Available	April 6
Districts train school personnel and distributes material	One Week Prior to Test Window
Testing Window	April 13-May 1
Districts Ship Paper/Pencil Test Materials to DRC	May 4-6

GMS – NCLB Consolidated Application

A new feature, “Show most current data”, has been added to the Allocations Page in the NCLB Consolidated Application to provide information on the amount of available carryover funds or other allocations once an application has been approved. Without this feature, applicants would need to create an amendment to learn the amount of carryover funds available when the prior year’s project is closed out. The “View Details” link provides a list of the specific amounts of carryover by program.

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REAP

A new file has been posted with remaining funds for FY 2007 and FY 2008 at:

<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/federalprograms/index.htm>

Corrections to 2007-2008 "School Enrollment" Data

NSSRS Validation #300 was introduced in the March 20 NDE Bulletin to assist districts in identifying errors that can adversely affect graduation and dropout information. Districts are encouraged to resolve validation #300 errors for both the current school year and 2007-2008 (by selecting "Change Years" and "2008-06-30" within NSSRS Validation) because these errors will adversely impact "cohort" information used for graduation rates in future years. NSSRS Validation error #300 identifies students who have more than one Enrollment Code indicating withdrawal (200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, or 206) at the same school and on the same day. The solution would be to determine which School Enrollment record(s) must be deleted and notify the NDE Helpdesk. Additional School Enrollment records may be required if the School Number and/or Enrollment Date values reported are incorrect. The Enrollment Code values listed above are described in the "NSSRS Student Templates Instruction Manual" available on the NSSRS Documents web page (<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/nssrs/Documents.htm>)

Reminders:

Draft of Revised Mathematics Standards -- Ready for Comment

A draft of the revised Mathematics Standards is available for review and input March 23 – April 3.

Please go to the following website:

<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/math/documents/StandardsSurveyHomepage.html>

All schools are encouraged to participate. Participants are able to comment as an individual or as a group. Please remember this survey is to provide input on the content of the standards themselves - not on the statewide assessment. Those pieces will come later.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Telecast

The regularly scheduled NCLB telecast is being replaced with a session providing the latest information on the ARRA (a.k.a. Stimulus Package) grants for districts. The telecast will provide timelines and information on the ARRA funds flowing through the Department including IDEA, Title I, Part A, Title II, Part D, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education and School Lunch Equipment Assistance grants.

The telecast will be on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. (Central Time) on Net*SAT 105 (State Channel 04). The telecast will be no more than one hour. For technical assistance contact the NET Help Desk at 800-698-3426. The powerpoint presentation used in the telecast will be posted by April 3rd on the NDE homepage under ARRA and on the "Federal Programs - NCLB" on the NDE homepage under NCLB Updates at <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/federalprograms/nclbupdates/index.htm> A video of the telecast can be downloaded from either of the above locations. A DVD will be sent to all ESUs by the following week.

ARRA and Title I, Part A and Title II, Part D

We are planning to use an application for the formula grants in ARRA (Title I, Part A and Title II, Part D) that is very much like the current NCLB Consolidated Application in the grants management system. We need to know if the consortia membership for the ARRA funds will be the same as the membership information submitted for NCLB for 2009-10 school year. A memo was emailed to all districts today. Please contact Diane Stuehmer (diane.stuehmer@nebraska.gov) if you have questions.

NSSRS

Please contact your ESU for information on the NDE Data Submission workdays.

Data Conference

March 26, 2009

You can register on-line now for the Data Partnership Conference (<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/>) to be held in Kearney on April 30 – May 1, 2009. This link also provides a list of all breakout sessions under the “Schedule of Events”.

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