



## NEWS RELEASE

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# REPORT ON NEBRASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS, STUDENT PERFORMANCE RESULTS RELEASED

A report on Nebraska public schools and student performance was released to the public today during a news conference in Lincoln.

Education Commissioner Roger Breed said the State of the Schools Report provides more information and data about the state's public schools and student performance than ever before.

The State of the Schools Report highlights the performance of students by district and school building in reading, mathematics, writing and science as well as the performance by groups of students, including race and ethnicity, poverty, special education and English language learners.

"Some groups of students are struggling despite the efforts of their teachers and schools to meet the challenges students face in the classroom," Breed said, encouraging schools to study their data, to look for differences or gaps in the performance of groups of students and to identify instructional strategies to help all students perform at higher levels. "The data now available can and should be an effective tool to improve student learning at all levels."

Student performance data show:

- 69 percent of the 147,349 students tested in grades 3-8 and 11 were proficient on the first-ever state reading test, a new test that measures performance on newly revised, more rigorous state reading standards. These new test results should not be compared to results from the previous assessment system.
- 93 percent of the students tested in grades 3-8 and 11 were proficient in mathematics based on results from an assessment system that is being phased out, a system that allowed teachers to test at the point of instruction and to retest students to ensure that they were proficient. This assessment system is different from the new reading test, a one-time, drop-in measure of content and skills.
- Writing and science student performance: Available for certain grades on the State of the Schools Report at [www.education.ne.gov](http://www.education.ne.gov).

The State of the Schools Report also provides information on the schools and districts designated as needing improvement under federal accountability as well as those considered Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools, a second federal accountability system that will provide about \$6 million to help schools better meet students' needs. To determine the Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools, schools

were ranked by their combined reading and math scores. Here are the results for the two federal accountability systems:

- 61 schools did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress goals for two consecutive years and are considered in need of improvement.
- 42 schools are considered Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools. The list of schools is available on the State of the Schools Report.

Breed encouraged parents and Nebraska residents to study the report to learn how the schools and students in their community are performing.

The State of the Schools Report is available on the Nebraska Department of Education's homepage at: [www.education.ne.gov](http://www.education.ne.gov) or at <http://reportcard.education.ne.gov> .