



## NEWS RELEASE

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Dec. 4, 2015

## UPDATED NEWS RELEASE

# NEW AQuESTT RESULTS CLASSIFY MORE THAN HALF OF ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS EXCELLENT OR GREAT

- Three schools designated as priority schools in an effort to identify how to better assist all schools in need of support to improve.

New state accountability results released today showed that more than half of all public schools were classified as excellent or great.

Under AQuESTT, *Accountability for a Quality Education System Today and Tomorrow*, schools were classified excellent, great, good or needs improvement.

A breakdown showed that 147 or 13.01 percent of the schools were classified excellent, 473 or 41.86 percent were great, 423 or 37.43 percent were good and 87 or 7.70 percent were designated as in need of improvement.

Three schools from the 87 schools in need of support to improve were designated as priority schools. Those schools are Druid Hill Elementary School in the Omaha Public Schools district; Loup County Elementary School, Loup County Public Schools; and, Santee Middle School, Santee Community Schools.

As a priority school, the staff of each school will collaborate with a Support and Intervention Team to identify and guide school improvement efforts focused on the following key areas of school effectiveness:

- School Leadership
- Educator Effectiveness
- Improvement of Instruction

- School Culture
- Family and Community Engagement
- Use of Data for Continuous Improvement

Nebraska Education Commissioner Matt Blomstedt said these schools represent challenges and needs identified in other schools in need of support to improve. “Our work to support the priority schools will provide information on how we can help other schools across the state.”

The priority schools were determined through a thorough review of data and schools responses on a survey, the Evidence-Based Analysis.

AQuESTT is a new accountability system that is broader than past state and federal systems in that it goes beyond test scores to classify schools on, among other factors, growth, improvement and graduation rates as well as a detailed analysis of individual schools. Based on individual school findings, schools may receive credit toward their classification for certain improvements and/or also lose classification points.

AQuESTT results showed that 110 or 9.73 percent of the schools received credit in their classification based on the Evidence-Based Analysis which surveyed schools to determine practices, policies and procedures they have that are aligned to the six AQuESTT tenets: 1) Positive partnerships, relationships, student success 2) Transitions 3) Educational Opportunities and Access 4) College and Career Readiness 5) Assessment 6) Educator Effectiveness.

The findings also showed that:

- 38 or about 3.36 percent of the schools received credit for increasing the percentage of their students who were proficient on state tests
- 27 or 2.39 percent received credit for growth because a certain percentage of the same students tested last year in reading and math improved their tests scores this year
- 32 or 2.83 percent of the schools received credit for improvement because the school’s average state test scores over the past three years improved

Detailed information on the AQuESTT system is available at [www.aquestt.com](http://www.aquestt.com).

The AQuESTT report on the classification of schools/districts will be available to through the Nebraska Department of Education’s homepage at: [www.education.ne.gov](http://www.education.ne.gov) or [www.aquestt.com](http://www.aquestt.com) .