



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

DATE: December 4, 2015

PROPOSED ACTION ITEM: 7.6 Adopt the Commissioner's recommendation for priority school designation.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Nebraska Statute 79-760.06 requires the State Board of Education to establish an accountability system to be used to measure the performance of individual public schools and school districts and to name up to three priority schools. The adopted accountability system, AQuESTT (Accountability for Quality Education System Today and Tomorrow) includes a process for the designation of priority schools from the Needs Improvement classification of schools.

Schools in the Needs Improvement classification reflect the range of schools that can be found in communities across the state of Nebraska, from schools located in large, more urban communities, to mid-sized communities, communities that are experiencing demographic change, communities on or near Nebraska Native American reservation lands, and smaller, rural communities dispersed across the state.

Priority school recommendations have been determined through a thorough review of data and schools' responses to an Evidence-Based Analysis (EBA). The three recommendations for priority schools are:

Druid Hill Elementary School:

Druid Hill is a part of Omaha Public Schools, serves 314 students in North Omaha, and represents Nebraska schools that are located in larger communities and more urban districts.

Loup County Elementary School:

Loup County Elementary is a part of Loup County Public Schools, serves 37 students in Central Nebraska, and represents Nebraska schools located in more rural communities throughout the state.

Santee Middle School:

Santee Middle School is part of Santee Community Schools, serves 24 students in Northeastern Nebraska, and represents Nebraska schools on or near Native American reservations.