

Request for Amendment to the 2014-2015 Data Recognition Contract-  
Transition Plan-NeSA-Reading (2009 Standards) to NeSA-English Language Arts (2014 Standards)

**Reason for Transition of NeSA-Reading to NeSA-English Language Arts**

The State Board of Education approved the revised English Language Arts standards that are College and Career Ready in September 2014. With the adoption of revised standards, the NeSA-Reading tests must be transitioned to meet the content and rigor of the revised English Language Arts standards.

Funds are available for the amendment requests if they are approved by the State Board.

**Background**

**The Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA)-Reading assessment:**

- administered to public schools students to measure school and district accountability.
- has been in place in Nebraska since 2010 (five years of results).
- provides a grade appropriate test given in each grade, 3-8 and 11.
- administered the last week in March through the first week in May (same testing window as NeSA-Math and Science).
- comprised of all multiple choice items.
- contains 45-55 operational items (count toward scores) per grade.
- based on reading passages.
- includes small number of field-tested items (do not count toward scores, but are items being field-tested for use on future tests).
- administered online to approximately 94% of students; 6% participate paper/pencil due to an accommodation.
- average time used-
  - by an eighth grader-70 minutes for NeSA-Reading (in two parts).
  - by a third grader- 80 minutes for NeSA-Reading (in two parts).
- based on design as indicated in The Table of Specifications (available on NDE website at [http://www.education.ne.gov/Assessment/NeSA\\_Reading.htm](http://www.education.ne.gov/Assessment/NeSA_Reading.htm)) that indicates:
  - the standards covered in the test for each grade.
  - the highest depth of knowledge reached (complexity of item).

**The Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA)- Reading, Alternate Assessment**

- administered to public schools special education students with a severe cognitive disability (1%) to measure school and district accountability.
- has been in place in Nebraska since 2011 (four years of results).
- provides a grade appropriate test in each grade, 3-8 and 11.
- administered the last week in March through the first week in May (same testing window as NeSA-Math-AA and Science-AA).
- comprised of all multiple choice items.
- contains approximately 25 operational items (count toward scores) per grade.
- administered paper/pencil.
- includes a small number of field tested items (do not count toward scores, but are items being field-tested for use on future tests).
- needed time to test varies widely, depending on the student.
- based on design as indicated in The Table of Specifications (available on NDE website at [http://www.education.ne.gov/Assessment/NeSA\\_Reading.htm](http://www.education.ne.gov/Assessment/NeSA_Reading.htm)) that indicates:

- the standards covered in the test for each grade.
- the highest depth of knowledge reached (complexity of item).

**Transition of NeSA-Reading and NeSA-AA Reading**

Below are presented costs and draft details, concerning preliminary information for a transition plan for test development of revised NeSA-English Language Arts assessment and NeSA-English Language Arts-Alternate Assessment.

With the following amendments to the Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) contract that was approved in June 2014, some of the basic work of test development can be completed over the course of the next six months in the current year’s contract:

**Costs**

***NeSA-English Language Arts assessment***

Provide assistance to NDE in partnership with Nebraska educators for the development of:	
Table of Specifications	\$ 9,375
Item and Scoring Samplers	\$ 46,056
New item types	\$ 111,073
Total	\$ 166,504

***NeSA-English Language Arts Alternate Assessment***

Provide assistance to NDE in partnership with Nebraska educators for the development of:	
Extended Standards	\$ 35,583.
Table of Specifications	\$ 7,707.
Item alignment	\$ 31,614.
Item and Scoring Samplers	\$ 45,049.
Total	\$119,953

Total Cost for Contract Amendment for NeSA-English Language Arts and NeSA-Alternate Assessment-English Language Arts	\$286,457
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## **Tentative Changes**

### NeSA-English Language Arts

- Align to revised English Language Arts Standards
- Addition of new item types
- Expanded coverage of standards
- Expanded depth of knowledge

### NeSA- English Language Arts Alternate Assessment

- Align to revised English Language Arts Standards
- Expanded coverage of standards
- Possible expanded depth of knowledge

## **Future Decisions**

Many major decisions are still ongoing as NDE continues to gather input through a Nebraska educator Assessment Survey, ongoing meetings with Nebraska educators, and State Board of Education meetings.

Once funding is approved, Nebraska Department of Education can move forward to determine details for the revision process:

- to include the expertise of Nebraska educators,
- to best serve Nebraska's students,
- to best meet the requirements of summative assessment,
- and to support the vision of A QuESTT.