

Re-engaging Out of School Youth with Disabilities



Nebraska Department of Education
Office of Special Education
Strategic Plan 2011-2014



Overview

In September 2011, the Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education participated in a Continuous Improvement Visit with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The Visit incorporated a “Results” discussion which provided NDE the opportunity to meet with stakeholders to study beyond the issue of compliance and focus on improved results for students with disabilities. NDE selected the topic of re-entry.

With the support of the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities (NDPC-SD), Nebraska is conducting research and dedicating resources to promote re-entry programs or efforts to re-engage out of school youth with disabilities. Guidance from the NDPC-SD provides that high school students with disabilities who drop out of school are costly to society. Compared to those who graduate, they are more likely to be unemployed, dependent on public services, and involved in the criminal justice system. Therefore, the work to support youth with disabilities who have dropped out of school to re-engage and finish a high school credential is critical for the student, school and community.

This strategic plan was developed with input from a committee of stakeholders. For a complete listing of stakeholders see “Appendix A”.

For additional resources and updates, please visit: <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/index.html>



Measuring Progress

The work provided in this plan supports the improvement activities outlined in Nebraska's State Performance Plan (SPP). Therefore, as the activities in this plan are completed, it is anticipated that the state's performance on SPP Indicator 2, Percent of Youth with IEPs dropping out of high school, will improve.

In summary, Nebraska's percent of youth with IEPs dropping out of school and the established rigorous targets for improving this performance are:

Nebraska's Dropout Rate for Students with Disabilities: For the 2009-10 school year, Nebraska reported 1.94% of special education students dropped out in grades 7-12.

Applied:

- a. 380 Special Education Students dropped out in grades 7-12.
- b. 19552 Special Education Students enrolled in the official fall enrollment in grades 7 -12.
(380 divided by 19,552 = .0194 Times 100 = 1.94%)

Measurable and Rigorous Targets:

FFY	Target
2011 (2011-2012)	1.63% or less of youth with IEPs dropping out of high school.
2012 (2012-2013)	1.62% or less of youth with IEPs dropping out of high school.
2013 (2013-2014)	1.62% or less of youth with IEPs dropping out of high school.

Each year, Nebraska will report to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) its progress against the targets provided above. The state will also report its progress completing the activities outlined in this plan.

Re-engaging Out of School Youth with Disabilities
Strategic Plan 2011-2014

Year 1 (2011-12) Activity Summary: The state will select a participating school district(s) to assist in the development of a re-entry framework. This framework will include processes for creating flexible programming to re-engage out of school youth. A website will be developed to highlight available resources specific to re-entry. The state will also review and analyze data needs to support this project.

Year 2011-12	Activity	Timeline	Resources
	Establish criteria for selecting participating school(s).	November 2011	NDE Staff
	Create page on NDE Special Education website to highlight initiative updates and resources.	January 2012	NDE Staff NDPC-SD
	Revise Post-School Outcomes interview instrument to include questions specific to youth who have dropped out of school.	February 2012	NDE Staff UNL
	Select and begin work with participating school district(s) and establish implementation plan (targets, improvement activities and resources).	March 2012	NDE Participating School(s)
	Pilot Post School Outcomes interview questions during 2012 survey of dropouts.	July 2012	UNL

Resources:

NDE- Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education

NDPC-SD: National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities

UNL: University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Re-engaging Out of School Youth with Disabilities
Strategic Plan 2011-2014

Year 2 (2012-13) Activity Summary: The state will work intensively with the participating school(s) to implement re-engagement activities. TA will be provided state-wide to raise awareness of re-entry. Project data will be analyzed and disseminated and framework materials will be developed to support state-wide implementation.

Year 2012-13	Activity	Timeline	Resources
	Analyze collected Post School Outcomes (PSO) data specific to dropouts.	September 2012	NDE Staff UNL PSO Data
	Explore partnering opportunities with virtual learning experiences.	October 2012	NDE Staff Local Programs
	Conduct quarterly status meetings with participating school(s).	On-going throughout project	NDE Staff Participating School(s) NDPC-SD
	Conduct webinars for school districts (research, processes, benefits, etc. for building re-entry programs).	February 2013	NDE NDPC-SD Nebraska School Districts
	Develop process for highlighting involvement (e.g. list schools on NDE webpage, present to State Board of Education).	April 2013	NDE Staff Participating School(s)
	Develop and finalize framework materials	June 2013	NDE Staff School(s)
Report progress annually to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)			

Re-engaging Out of School Youth with Disabilities
Strategic Plan 2011-2014

Year 3 (2013-14) Activity Summary: NDE will disseminate the re-entry framework materials to support state-wide implementation. Data will be reported and analyzed. Nebraska will pursue opportunities to share information gathered from this project.

Year 2013-14	Activity	Timeline	Resources
	Analyze data collected from participating school(s). Review baseline data, targets and improvement activities.	August 2013	NDE Staff Participating School(s) Data
	Collect electronic testimonials from participants and post on NDE website.	September 2013	NDE Staff Participating School(s) Administrators Youth Families
	Finalize technical assistance manual which provides the framework for developing and implementing a re-entry program- based on lessons learned from participating school(s).	October 2013	NDE Staff Participating School(s)
	Disseminate framework technical assistance materials.	Begin November 2013	NDE Participating School(s)
	Seek local and national opportunities to present on re-entry framework.	January 2014	NDE Participating School(s) NDPC-SD
Report progress annually to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)			

APPENDIX “A”

OSEP Continuous Improvement Visit

Part-B Results Meeting Email List

State: Nebraska	Location (City and State): Lincoln, NE	
Date(s) of Visit: September 29 and 30, 2011		
Facilitator: Cesar D'Agord	Email Address: cdagord@uoregon.edu	
OSEP State Contact: Tony Williams	Email Address: tonyg.williams@ed.gov	
RRCP State Liaison: Janey Henkel	Email Address: janey.henkel@usu.edu	
TA Provider: Matt Klare	Email Address: mklare@clmson.edu	Program:
TA Provider: Selete Kofi Avoke	Email Address: selete.avoke@ed.gov	Program:

Name	Email Address	State Education Agency-Special Education	State Education Agency-Other	Local Education Agency (LEA)	State Advisory Panel	Parent Training and Information Center and Other Parent/Family Groups	College/University	Other Specify Agency or Group
Adria Bace	adria.bace@nebraska.gov	X						
Vicki Bauer	vicki.l.bauer@nebraska.gov		X					
Annie Bird	abird10@cox.net				X			
John Bright	john.bright@ops.org			X	X			
Jane Byers	jbyers@paplv.org			X	X			

Re-engaging Out of School Youth with Disabilities
Strategic Plan 2011-2014

Name	Email Address	State Education Agency-Special Education	State Education Agency-Other	Local Education Agency (LEA)	State Advisory Panel	Parent Training and Information Center and Other Parent/Family Groups	College/University	Other Specify Agency or Group
Babette Dickinson	bdickinson@southeast.edu						X	
Rose Dymacek	rose.dymacek@nebraska.gov	X						
Lindy Foley	lindy.foley@nebraska.gov	X						
Janey Henkel	janey.henkel@usu.edu							MPRRRC
Donna Hoffman	donna.hoffman@nebraska.gov		X					
Matt Klare	mklare@clemson.edu						X	NDPC-SD
Kyle McGowan	kylem@creteschools.org			X				
Jamie Krien	jamie95614@cccneb.edu				X			
Brenda McNiff	bmcniff@esu5.org			X		X		Educational Service Unit #5
Reece Peterson	rpeterson1@unl.edu						X	
Sandi Proskovec	jspros@msn.com				X	X		
Dennis Radford	dradford@esu17.org			X				Educational Service Unit #17
Jack Shepard	jack.shepard@nebraska.gov	X	X					
Sara Sinani	sara.sinani@nebraska.gov	X						
John Street	jstreet@esu10.org			X				Educational Service Unit #10
Karen Thode	aspiesrule@cox.net				X	X		
Brenda Tracy	brenda.tracy@ndstitans.org			X				
Beth Wierda	beth.wierda@nebraska.gov	X						
Selete Kofi Avoke	selete.avoke@ed.gov							US Dept. of Ed. OSEP
Alma McPherson	alma.mcpherson@ed.gov							US Dept. of Ed. OSEP
Tony Williams	tonyg.williams@ed.gov							US Dept. of Ed. OSEP
Cesar D'Agord	cdagord@uoregon.edu							Data Accountability Center