



Highlights of the State Board of Education meetings on August 7-8, 2014

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Accountability Update: A QuESTT

The State Board of Education and Commissioner Blomstedt unveiled A QuESTT, a new state accountability system that will replace NePAS by categorizing schools on multiple performance indicators as opposed to ranking schools on only NeSA test scores.

See [A QuESTT Draft Plan](#)

See [A QuESTT Timeline](#)

State Board Member Lynn Cronk Steps Down

Lynn Cronk of Grand Island was recognized by the State Board of Education for her service to the State Board, Nebraska students and schools. Cronk recently stepped down from the State Board of Education.

Biennium Budget Request for 2015-17

The Nebraska Department of Education's biennium budget request calls for \$82.5 million, a 7.1 percent increase, in general funds for state flow-through aid in 2015-16, and \$20.7 million, a 29.3 percent increase in the department's operational budget. The total 2015-16 budget request was \$1.7 billion of which 94.5 percent follows through the department to schools, primarily in the form of state aid to schools.

See [2015-17 Biennium Budget Request](#)

Career Education, Early Childhood Education

The State Board of Education initiated two study groups on Career Education and Early Childhood Education. Board committees will meet in the coming months to focus specifically on those programs.

Career Education Vision, Study

A study on Career Education in Nebraska public schools was presented, providing recommendations and strategies for the future of NCE.

See [Career Education Vision](#)

See [Career Education Study](#)

Early Childhood Education Programs Approved

The State Board of Education approved 194 early childhood education programs established by school districts and Educational Service Units for 2014-15. NDE staff verified the programs compliance with Rule 11.

See [Early Childhood Education Programs Approved](#)

Early Childhood Education: *Step Up to Quality*

Quality ratings for Nebraska child care and early childhood education programs are the focus of a new system launched July 1 to help parents and guardians evaluate child care facilities when choosing care for their young children. *Step Up to Quality* is aimed at improving the quality of all child care and early childhood education programs statewide — programs that typically care for children from birth to kindergarten age and are eligible to apply.

See [Step Up to Quality FAQ](#)

English Language Arts Standards: Public Input



Nebraska Department of Education staff presented a report summarizing public comment on the draft ELA standards. The report showed that about 25 percent of those responding supported the standard revisions and thought they were appropriate learning goals for Nebraska students while about 16 percent thought the revisions were too rigorous. The State Board of Education is expected to consider approval of the standards in September.

See [ELA Power Point, Public Input Results, Plans](#)

See [ELA Q and A](#)

See [ELA Draft Standards](#)

Nebraska Educator Preparation Programs

Nebraska's 16 postsecondary education institutions that prepare educators were approved for 2014-15.

See [Educator Preparation Programs](#)

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