



Highlights from the Nebraska State Board of Education meeting May 8-9, 2014:

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DRAFT LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS: PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY OPEN UNTIL MAY 30

Teachers, administrators and the public may comment on the draft Nebraska Language Arts Standards through May 30 by completing an electronic survey at <http://www.education.ne.gov/StandardsSurvey/index.html>.

To provide additional opportunities for comment, the State Board of Education and Nebraska Department of Education will hold public input sessions in July at numerous sites across the state. The location of those sites will be finalized soon. The State Board of Education is expected to consider approval of the revised standards in August. The draft standards are available at <http://www.education.ne.gov/StandardsSurvey/index.html>.

ASSESSMENT UPDATE, DRC CONTRACT

2014 NeSA statewide testing in reading, mathematics and science ended May 9. While the administration of these tests statewide was not flawless, the process ran more smoothly than during the earlier administration of the writing tests. Representatives of Data Recognition Corporation, a Minnesota-based contractor for testing in Nebraska, submitted to the State Board a letter that outlined steps the company will take to prevent future testing problems. DRC officials also announced that the company will place a full-time DRC technical advisor in Nebraska during the coming year to assist school districts and to better ensure that the testing runs smoothly. The DRC summary of the contract for the coming year was also presented to the Board. The Board will further consider the contract at its June meeting.

During the Board meeting, DRC and Lincoln Public Schools representatives explained the technical problems that the Lincoln district experienced as well as the steps taken by DRC and the district to address those issues. DRC and Lincoln Public Schools will work closely in the coming year to further identify and address those issues. A new Assessment/Accountability Advisory Committee comprised of Nebraska educators and technical advisors will also be established to assist with the process of administering statewide tests. The DRC letter and the proposed DRC contract are available at [DRC Letter and Proposed Contract](#)

ACCOUNTABILITY UPDATE

A 50-plus member task force has been meeting since March, reviewing accountability research, other state plans and hearing from experts on a variety of topics as part of their work on Nebraska's state accountability system, NePAS. The overarching goal of NePAS is improving student achievement and transparency.

The NePAS 1.1 Accountability Task Force is comprised of representatives from school districts, Educational Service Units as well as policy partners. A summary of the task force's preliminary work was presented to the Board and is available at [NePAS 1.1 Accountability Task Force](#). The group will reconvene this summer before providing its recommendations to the State Board of Education's Accountability Committee for consideration. The draft work plan outlining tasks through September 2015 is available at: [Draft Work Plan](#)

ESEA FLEXIBILITY

The State Board of Education's Accountability Committee asked the full Board to evaluate in June how Nebraska aligns to the federal ESEA Flexibility waiver requirements. To assist with that work, a document was created to identify ESEA Flexibility principles or assurances as well as Nebraska's current status on those requirements. That document is available at: [ESEA Flexibility](#)

The State Board of Education will meet June 5-6 at the Nebraska Department of Education, 301 Centennial Mall South, Sixth Floor, in Lincoln.