



September 2014

Highlights of the State Board of Education meetings on September 4-5, 2014

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## English Language Arts Standards

The State Board of Education adopted the newly revised English Language Arts Standards. Representatives of postsecondary education institutions — the University of Nebraska, Nebraska State College System, Nebraska Community Colleges and Independent Colleges and Universities of Nebraska — signed a joint statement indicating that the standards would serve as the state's college and career ready standards in English Language Arts.

See [ELA Standards](#)

See [Postsecondary Ed Joint Understanding](#)

## Biennium Budget Request for 2015-17

The Nebraska Department of Education's biennium budget request will be submitted to the State Budget Division. The 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 total operational budget. The total 2015-16 budget request was \$1.67 billion of which 94.5 percent flows through the department to schools, primarily in the form of state aid to schools.

See [NDE FY 2016-17 Biennial Budget Request](#)

## Accountability Update: A QuESTT

The process developed to create a new state accountability system was the focus of a special presentation at Friday's State Board of Education meeting. The process grew out of a task force comprised of about 50 Nebraska educators and accountability experts.

Under A QuESTT, Nebraska schools and districts would be placed in four categories based on multiple indicators of performance, as opposed to rankings. The category will be determined, in part, by the status scores on state tests as well as improvement and growth.

See [Development Executive Summary](#)

See [Accountability Development Slides](#)

## **Career Education: Middle School**

Nebraska Career Education will contract with a company to develop and provide professional development on a middle school career education and planning curriculum for a complete, semester long course for the classroom. The curriculum will be available at the 2015 Nebraska Career Education Conference.

See [Career Ed Rationale](#)

## **ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND GED TESTING**

In an update on Adult Education, a primarily federally-funded program for adults age 16 years and older, NDE staff indicated that research shows 140,000 to 163,000 or 8 percent to 10 percent of Nebraska adults do not have a high school diploma and about 2 percent do not speak English well or at all. A 2008 report also showed that 22 percent of Nebraska families living in poverty have parents who have not graduated from high school and do not have a GED. In 2014, Nebraska's GED programs served about 9,000 individuals.

See [Adult Ed and GED](#)

## **PBiS Evaluation**

PBiS is a decision-making framework for improving behavioral outcomes for all students. A network comprised of Nebraska schools is implementing the federally-funded program under a 2011 grant awarded to NDE. An evaluation of the program is required under the grant.

See [PBiS UNMC Contract](#)

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