



Highlights from the Nebraska State Board of Education meeting June 5-6, 2014:

HIGH ABILITY LEARNERS: State Board Committee Recommendations

A State Board of Education committee presented its recommendations to address the education of High Ability Learners. The recommendations include the development of a technical assistance guide that would include model programs to support local school districts. The recommendations also call for teacher preparation programs to address the identification of High Ability Learners and related instructional strategies. Under the recommendations, high-quality professional development would be provided for all current Nebraska educators. View the recommendations at: [HAL Recommendations](#)

NEBRASKA LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS: An Update

The State Board of Education in April approved the release of the draft Nebraska Language Arts Standards for public review and input. The standards were drafted with the goal of ensuring that rigorous K-12 academic standards will prepare all Nebraska students to be college and career ready.

For the past six weeks, educators and the public have had an opportunity to comment on the draft standards through a web-based survey. An analysis of those approximately 290 comments as well as comments provided in the near future will be presented at an upcoming State Board meeting.

The public will have additional opportunities to comment this summer through a focus group of business and industry representatives and a public hearing. All information will be shared with the standards editing committee to help to finalize the standards before they are

presented for State Board of Education approval. Click here for the

[ELA Update Opportunities To Comment.pdf](#)

ACCOUNTABILITY: ESEA Flexibility

Nebraska education policymakers will continue to look at the state's options under ESEA Flexibility waiver requirements. Nebraska Education Commissioner Matt Blomstedt plans to

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meet with U.S. Department of Education officials to discuss a framework for the state to move forward.

ASSESSMENT: Data Recognition Corporation contract

The State Board of Education voted to extend DRC's contract. DRC is a Minnesota-based contractor for testing in Nebraska. Representatives of the Nebraska Department of Education and DRC have spent several months addressing problems that occurred earlier this year, working with school district representatives and others to find solutions to meet Nebraska's expectations that students and schools have a positive testing experience in the future. View a DRC letter outlining steps the company will take to prevent future testing problems as well as the pending contract at: [DRC Letter and Pending Contract.pdf](#)

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT: School Security Director and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Instruction

The State Board was presented information on proposed changes to Rule 10, the rule on the accreditation of public schools. Under the proposed Rule 10 changes, CPR instruction would be required as part of the high school personal health curriculum and a state school security director would be appointed to provide leadership and support for safety and security in Nebraska's public schools. The new School Security Director also would oversee suicide awareness and prevention training for school staff. Click here to see the proposed changes: [Overview safety security Proposed Rule 10 changes.pdf](#)

The State Board of Education will meet August 7-8 at the Nebraska Department of Education, 301 Centennial Mall South, Sixth Floor, in Lincoln.