



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

State Board of Education Report

March 2016

Highlights of the State Board of Education meeting

State Board of Education

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STATE BOARD: STRATEGIC PLANNING

The State Board of Education has begun its strategic planning process. In January, FSG, an outside consulting firm, was hired to facilitate a process to engage the State Board, the Nebraska Department of Education, policy partners, key educators and stakeholders in the development of a strategic plan, with specific timelines and deliverables including a strategic roadmap for a 10-year horizon. The process will be conducted in four phases: Creating a Vision for Leadership; Examining the Education Landscape for Nebraska; Drafting of the Strategic Plan; and, Developing an Implementation Plan. During the March work session, the State Board met with FGS representatives on the first phase: Creating a Vision for Leadership. The strategic planning process is expected to take place over 19 weeks.

VISION FOR STATE ASSESSMENT

The environment for state assessment has changed in recent months with the passage of new federal education policy and the Nebraska Legislature looking to revise statutes on testing in LB 930. As a result, the State Board of Education and the Nebraska Department of Education have begun to develop a new vision and direction for state assessment to effectively support student learning. The Board and NDE will work with educators and policy partners to further develop this vision. The attached proposal outlines the proposed vision. See [Draft Assessment Vision/Plan](#)

TEXTBOOK LOAN PROGRAM

In early January, the Nebraska Catholic Conference petitioned the State Board of Education to revise Rule 4 related to the

Textbook Loan Program to include web-based electronic media and worktexts. The State Board approved the Catholic Conference petition and is moving forward with a public hearing on the proposed rule change. As required, the proposed rule also will be reviewed by the Attorney General.

See [Proposed Rule Revision](#)

NURTURING HEALTHY BEHAVIORS PROGRAM

The State Board of Education voted to move forward with the renewal of a Nebraska Children and Families Foundation grant to continue and expand programs and services for early childhood mental health. Under this grant, the Nurturing Healthy Behaviors program will be expanded to other areas across the state.

See [Rationale](#)

See [2014-15 Program Evaluation](#)

HEARING ON REVISIONS TO RULE 81, THE HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM

A March 29 public hearing has been scheduled to consider changes in the new minimum score requirements of the General Education Development (GED) tests.

See [Rule 81 Hearing Draft](#)

TEACHER/PRINCIPAL EVALUATION STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT

A State Board Study Committee on Teacher and Principal Evaluation, which has been meeting since August 2015, issued its final report to the full board including six recommendations. Since August, the Committee has examined the current requirements for evaluation in Nebraska, monitored what is happening at the national level, reviewed the development of the *Teacher and Principal Performance Framework*, which identifies effective practices for teachers and principals, and looked in-depth at the Nebraska models for Teacher and Principal Evaluation that have been designed and implemented by 17 pilot school districts over the past three years. Keeping the emphasis on evaluations that promote the improvement of teaching and leadership, the study committee recommended the following:

- 1) The State Board of Education adopts the *Teacher and Principal Performance Framework* as the minimum requirements for effective practices for teachers and principals.
- 2) The State Board directs NDE to develop effective practices for all other certificated employees.
- 3) The State Board recognizes that the effective practices and models, developed through the pilot process, are aligned with existing NDE Rules.
- 4) The State Board believes that a quality evaluation model includes the following components: evaluation of effective practices, measures of student and school progress, plans for ongoing professional learning, and other locally determined components.
- 5) The State Board directs that the evaluation models and supporting information developed through the pilot schools become open source for all school districts by June 1, 2016.
- 6) The State Board charges NDE to transition to a support and resource system for continued review and revision of the effective practices, evaluation models, and subsequent materials for school districts.

See [Final Report](#)

For detailed information about the work session or business meeting, visit <http://www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/Agendas.html> . The State Board of Education will meet April 7-8, 2016.

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