



June 2015

Highlights of the State Board of Education meeting

State Board of Education

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[email](#)
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AQuESTT: Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow

The State Board of Education and Commissioner Blomstedt announced new information about AQuESTT, Nebraska's new school accountability system which focuses on school improvement. AQuESTT is broader, bolder and better than the previous state accountability system or the federal system under NCLB.

AQuESTT will consider not only student performance results and graduation rates but also whether schools have implemented indicators related to requirements in the state's accreditation rule, Rule 10, as well as those aligned with the six AQuESTT tenets. Those AQuESTT tenets are educator effectiveness, assessment, educational opportunities, transitions, positive partnerships and college and career readiness. AQuESTT and the tenets are being incorporated into Rule 10. All indicators will be further defined in August.

The timeline calls for Nebraska schools and districts to be classified into one of four classes with the final classification released publicly in December. At that time, NDE also will announce the three schools designated as most in need of improvement or priority schools. See [Implementing AQuESTT-PowerPoint](#)

ESEA FLEXIBILITY: WAIVER

If ESEA is not reauthorized in the coming months, leaving NCLB in place, and Nebraska's waiver request has not been approved, NDE will continue to report on both the federal (NCLB) accountability system as well as AQuESTT, as required. At this time, NDE has not received a response from USDE on the state's waiver request.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS

The State Board reviewed its goals during the AQuESTT discussion and will continue that conversation during an upcoming retreat.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: RULE 11

Rule 11 was approved, revising regulations for prekindergarten programs established by public schools and Educational Service Units.

See [Rule 11, Hearing Officer's Summary](#)

See [Rule 11](#)

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANTS

Early childhood program grants were approved for 20 public school districts and one Educational Service Unit to provide collaborative early childhood programs to serve at-risk four-year-old children eligible to attend kindergarten the following year.

See [Early Childhood Education Grants](#)

MATHEMATICS STANDARDS

In April, the revised Nebraska Mathematics Standards were released for public review and input. A report on that public input as well as a timeline for additional input was announced. Nebraska's mathematics standards were revised and drafted with the goal of ensuring that rigorous K-12 academic standards are in place to prepare all Nebraska students to be college and career ready when they graduate. The proposed mathematics standards are scheduled for approval in September.

See [Math Standards Update](#)

See [Math Survey PowerPoint](#)

DRC CONTRACT

The State Board approved the 2015-16 contract with Data Recognition Corporation for assessment services.

EDUCATION MEASUREMENT CONSULTING SERVICES

Education Measurement Consulting was approved to provide psychometric services for NeSA testing and AQuESTT as needed.

See [Contract](#)

CHECK4LEARNING

C4L, an interim assessment system provided schools by the NDE, was the focus of a report that showed nearly 200 of the state's school districts use the C4L system with their students. Teachers from those districts also participate in the writing or review of state assessment items. The report showed a notable increase in the use of C4L in recent years.

See [C4L Usage](#)

See [C4L Report](#)

See [How Districts Use C4L PowerPoint](#)

See [2014-15 C4L Members](#)

See [C4L Additional Information](#)

NEBRASKA CAREER EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A Career Education report noted the opportunity and need to increase the number of career education teachers in Nebraska, to develop a work-based learning system and to develop a systematic model of career guidance that would be infused throughout the K-12 curriculum.

See [Career Ed Findings](#)

See [Career Ed Report Rationale](#)

See [Summary of Career Ed Study Committee](#)

ACCREDITATION OF APPROVED SCHOOLS

Schools currently classified as *approved* — schools that applied for and completed an application process to be *accredited* — received accreditation approval for the 2015-2016 school year.

See [Accreditation of Approved Schools](#)

ACCREDITATION OF SCHOOLS FOR 2015-16

All public school districts and accredited nonpublic schools on the attached list were found to be in compliance with Rule 10 accreditation regulations and were accredited for the 2015-2016 school year.

See [List of Accredited Schools](#)

VR CONTRACT WITH AUTISM CENTER INC.

Autism Center Inc. was approved to provide employment services to assist individuals with autism in securing employment in the Lincoln area, replicating services now provided for individuals with disabilities in the Omaha area.

See [Autism Center Rationale](#)

For detailed information about the June work session or business meeting, visit <http://www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/Agendas.html> .

The State Board will not meet in July. The next State Board of Education meeting will be August 6-7, 2015.

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