



NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

JUNE 2017

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PRIORITY SCHOOL UPDATE

The designation and support of three priority schools is a vital part of the AQuESTT accountability system. This month, board members were updated on the progress at Druid Hill Elementary in Omaha. Druid Hill staff gave a presentation during the public work session on their continuous improvement. Since being named a priority school, student referrals to the office have dropped from 770 a year to just 253 and staff said that equates to 21 more days of instruction. The improvement has been a community effort, along with student and teacher engagement. Commissioner Matt Blomstedt said he will be recommending that Druid Hill leave priority status at the August Board meeting.

DRUID HILL'S PRIORITY SCHOOL PROGRESS PLAN

There has also been significant improvement at the other two priority schools, Santee and Loup County. They are making strides forward and will continue to get support from NDE by remaining on priority status for the 2017-2018 school year.

APPROVAL OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION GRANTS

The State Board of Education voted unanimously to approve almost one million dollars in grants to 11 school districts to provide early childhood programs to serve at-risk three and four-year-old children. The purpose of the Early Childhood Education Grant Program is to improve equity of access to early childhood education prekindergarten programs. Approximately 270 children are expected to be served in the 2017-2018 school year as a result of this funding. You can see a complete list of schools and award amounts by clicking on the following link.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION GRANTS

ACCREDITATION OF SCHOOLS

The State Board of Education approved the accreditation of 245 school districts under Rule 10. All public school districts and accredited nonpublic schools submitted a Statement of Assurance indicating compliance with Rule 10. Accreditation staff members also conducted visits to a sampling of schools to verify compliance.

LIST OF ACCREDITATION OF RULE 10 SCHOOLS

ESSA UPDATE

By this fall, every state is required to have a plan complying with the federal ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Guidelines. Staff at NDE have been working hard on the Nebraska State Plan. Commissioner Blomstedt gave a presentation to the board on the work that has been done and what the next steps in the process will be. He stressed that ESSA is about equity and making sure we are serving students across the state and closing achievement gaps. The final draft will be presented to the board in August before going to Governor Pete Ricketts for approval.

ESSA UPDATE

ESSA NEBRASKA WEBSITE

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, August 4, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Nebraska State Office Building.
A work session will be held on Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

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



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