S.E.E.D.

A statewide report on external visit recommendations from data years 2015-2021

Supporting Educator Effectiveness through Development

ACCREDITATION RECOMMENDATION THEME ANALYSIS

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF COORDINATED SCHOOL & DISTRICT SUPPORT

REVISED SUMMER 2022

SUMMARY

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) exists to lead and support Nebraska Schools in assuring equitable educational opportunities and promoting improved performance for all learners through continuous school improvement.

All accredited schools in Nebraska must comply with 92 NAC 10, the rules and regulations which govern standards and procedures for the accreditation of all public schools and any nonpublic schools that request state accreditation. As part of this process, accredited schools must have a systematic ongoing process that guides the planning, implementation, evaluation, and renewal of continuous school improvement activities to meet local and statewide goals and priorities. The process includes a periodic review by visiting educators who provide consultation to the local school/community in the continued accomplishment of plans and goals and a report outlining the findings of each external review is submitted to the NDE.

Accreditation reports dating back to 2015 were analyzed to determine key growth areas for public schools across Nebraska. A total of 244 reports were included in the data set. The recommendations underwent content analysis to determine the presence of Nebraska Teacher and Principal Performance Standards (NTPPS) language, themes, and concepts given in the qualitative data. Each recommendation was classified into primary, secondary, and tertiary themes from six content themes determined. The data has been categorized by overall prevalence from 2015-2021, by report year, and by the reporting district's Educational Service Unit (ESU) region. Regional ESU data will be provided in individualized reports.
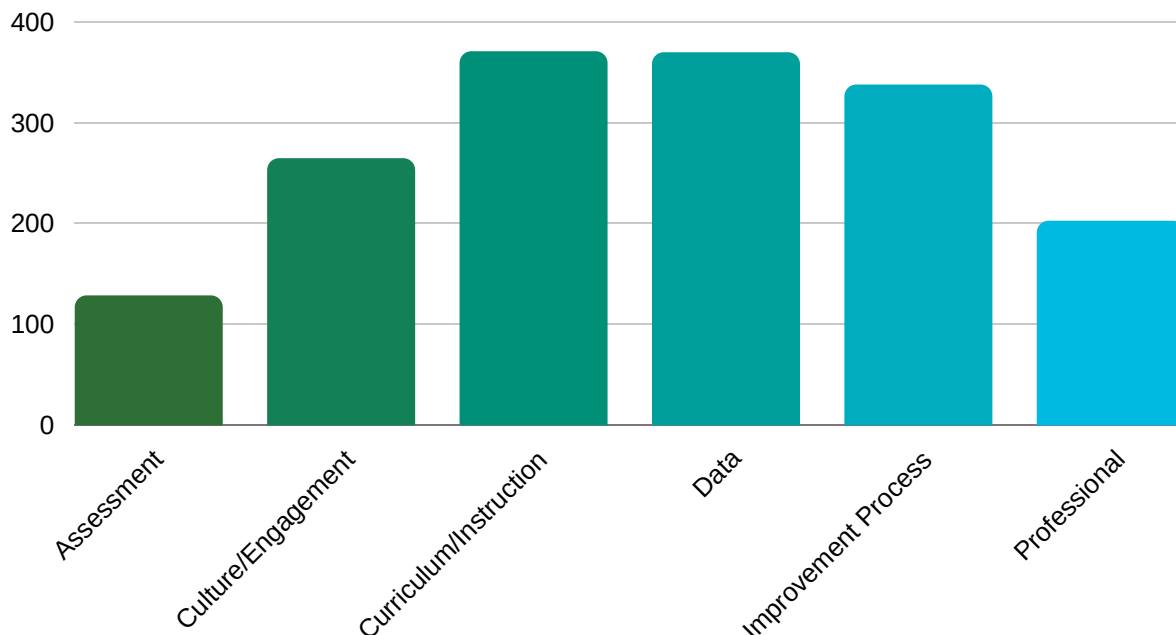
Table 1: Theme Hierarchy from 2015-2021

Data Theme	Frequency	Theme Components
Curriculum and Instruction	22.16%	**Curriculum** consists of the following data codes: Curriculum Alignment (76), Technology (47), Vertical Alignment (24), Career Readiness (13), Transitions (12), Standards (12), Curriculum Implementation (9), Programming (6), and Curriculum Review (3). **Instruction** consists of the following data codes: Differentiated Instruction (50), Instructional Strategies (43), HQIM (41), Common Language (25), and Instructional Materials (9).
Data	22.10%	**Data** consists of the following data codes: Data System (125), Data Analysis (71), Data Informed Practices (51), Student Data (43), Program Data (27), Expanded Data Collection [Climate, Demographic, District, Instructional, Perceptual, Staff, Stakeholder] (21), Data Interpretation (14), Data Training (12), and Data Disaggregation (5).
Improvement Process	20.18%	**Improvement process** consists of the following data codes: School Improvement Plan (63), Strategic Plan (47), Continuous Improvement (46), Processes (43), MTSS (41), CIP (25), Resources Management (24), Support Services (20), Operations Management (17), District Promotion (8), and Research-based Interventions (3).
Culture and Engagement	15.80%	**Culture** consists of the following data codes: Communication (64), Collaboration (15), Leadership (13), Achievement (6), Culture (6), Equity (5), Ethics (4), Growth (2), Recognition (2), and Sustainability (2). **Engagement** consists of the following data codes: Stakeholder engagement (94), Student Engagement (36), and Staff Engagement (15).
Professional	12.10%	**Professional** consists of the following data codes: Professional Development Plan (83), PLC (53), Scheduling (21), Mentoring (20), Staff Training (16), Recruitment and Retention (6), and Accountability System (3).
Assessment	7.66%	**Assessment** consists of the following data codes: Evaluations (45), Goal Setting (45), Formative Assessment (15), Grading (13), Goal Alignment (8), and Summative Assessment (2).

Table 2: Top 25% of Codes from 2015-2021

Data Theme	Frequency	Sample Recommendation
Data System	7.49%	The school is encouraged to establish a focus on a comprehensive plan for use of data for classroom instruction, student learning targets, as well as formative and summative assessment, with ongoing, timely data review timelines.
Stakeholder Engagement	5.63%	Continue to work with the Board of Education and organizations within the community to increase school and community relations concerning the educational opportunities offered.
Professional Development Plan	4.97%	Formalize and implement a districtwide action plan that systematically prioritizes, aligns, and evaluates professional development practices.
Curriculum Alignment	4.55%	Develop and implement a plan to assure curriculum is aligned horizontally and vertically in all K-12 curriculum areas.
Data Analysis	4.25%	Establish and implement a systemic, research-based process for the collection, analysis, and use of data to guide instructional decision-making.
Communication	3.83%	Ensure all stakeholders have continuous communication and feedback regarding the school improvement processes, school information, and district vision.
School Improvement Plan	3.77%	Research and implement a formalized research-based school improvement action plan which will lead to systemic and systematic change.
Professional Learning Community	3.17%	Develop and implement collaborative learning communities involving all staff, at all levels, that are designed to focus on instruction and student learning.
Data Informed Practices	3.05%	All staff should continue to engage in the review of demographic, perceptual, program, and student performance data to drive instructional decisions.
Differentiated Instruction	2.99%	Implement a process in which instruction is monitored and adjusted to meet individual learner's needs and the institution's learning expectations.
Technology	2.81%	Examine the tools available to you to create a vision for moving technology use forward in the areas of student engagement and learning.
Strategic Plan	2.81%	Develop and document a plan to strengthen your current strategic plan and future plans by aligning and integrating the district's 5-year plan and the action plan to the strategic plan.
Continuous Improvement	2.75%	Continuous school improvement should regularly review student achievement data, identify areas of growth to focus improvement efforts, and create action plans for improvement.
Evaluations	2.69%	Develop and implement with fidelity a comprehensive aligned PK-12 staff supervision and evaluation system that clearly outlines performance criteria to positively impact professional practice and provide mechanisms for ongoing feedback and monitoring.
Goal Setting	2.69%	The use of traditional SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-Based) helps all those involved in the improvement efforts and helps maintain a sense of accountability, progress and achievement.

Table 3: Theme Hierarchy by Report Year

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Curriculum/ Instruction (26.81%)	Curriculum/ Instruction (25.64%)	Data (24.01%)	Improvement Process (22.26%)	Curriculum/ Instruction (22.40%)
Data (23.83%)	Data (21.37%)	Improvement Process (22.28%)	Data (21.13%)	Improvement Process (21.04%)
Improvement Process (15.32%)	Improvement Process (19.37%)	Curriculum/ Instruction (19.55%)	Culture/Engagement (19.25%)	Data (19.40%)
Professional (14.04%)	Culture/Engagement (13.39%)	Culture/Engagement (16.34%)	Curriculum/ Instruction (16.60%)	Culture/Engagement (17.49%)
Culture/Engagement (13.19%)	Professional (13.11%)	Professional (9.90%)	Professional (13.21%)	Professional (11.75%)
Assessment (6.81%)	Assessment (7.12%)	Assessment (7.92%)	Assessment (7.55%)	Assessment (7.92%)