



Nebraska ESSA Plan Draft Amendment: Summary

May 8, 2023

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, states were afforded flexibilities through an addendum to their current state ESSA plans. The NDE successfully applied for an [addendum](#) in April 2022 and implemented the transition accountability system in the fall of 2022 with the [designation of schools](#) for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI), and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI). One stipulation with the approval of the addendum was a formal amendment to the ESSA plan. Additionally, when the NDE applied for the addendum, cohorts of designated schools shifted and these changes must be accounted for in the state plan. Finally, the state has made changes to the federal accountability system, including adjusting or removing specific indicators, and must update the plan to make those changes.

The following chart highlights selected components of the proposed ESSA Amendment. These changes capture required updates, while maintaining as much consistency as possible. Adjustments were presented to and discussed with the Nebraska State Board of Education on May 5, 2023.

Flexibilities Granted in the 2022 Addendum	Proposed Amendment	Rationale for Proposed Amendment
A school or student group will move from the second filter to the third filter if it meets the designation metric for either growth or non-proficiency.	A school or student group will move from the second filter to the third filter if both growth and non-proficiency meet the parameters for the designation metric.	Allowing a school to exit for either growth or non-proficiency simplifies the metric and allows for identification of the schools that need the most support.
A school or student group that reaches the third filter will be designated if the chronic absenteeism score falls below the designation metric.	A school or student group that reaches the third filter will be designated if the both chronic absenteeism and science status scores fall below the designation cut points.	Allowing a school to exit for either chronic absenteeism or science status simplifies the metric and allows for identification of the schools that need the most support.
Chronic absenteeism is an absolute measure based on one year of data.	The 2021-22 school year will be established as a baseline year. The goal for each school will be to reduce their rate of chronic absenteeism by half in 10 years. As such, each school will have an annual reduction rate necessary to achieve this goal.	Resetting the baseline and reestablishing chronic absenteeism reduction goals will allow schools to have clear goals based on post-pandemic data.
Science status is not included in federal accountability.	Science status will be included in stage 3 of the filter process.	Utilizing science status will align state and federal accountability and provide an additional measure of SQSS.
Preschool is included in the chronic absenteeism metric.	Preschool will not be included in the chronic absenteeism metric.	Preschool is not included in the Nebraska compulsory attendance law; thus, it should not be included in the chronic absenteeism metric.