



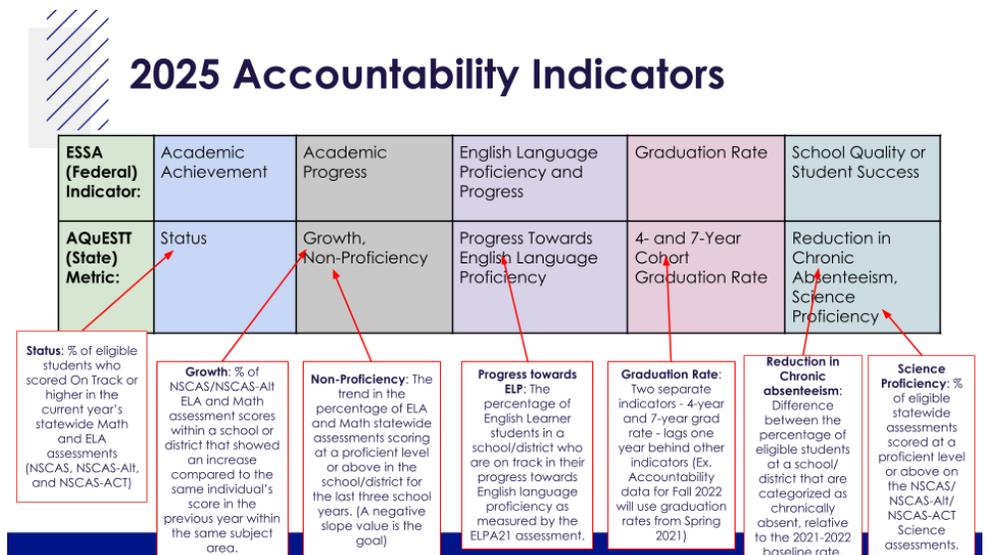
English/Multilingual Learners Newsletter February 2026

Continuous School Improvement

Nebraska school districts are required to have a continual school improvement process. The NDE school improvement core beliefs value the work already taking place in schools and recognize that all schools can improve regardless of school demographics. Fundamentally, school improvement is about supporting those schools that need it the most. The 2025 accountability indicators include academic achievement, academic progress, English language proficiency and progress, graduation rates, and school quality or student success. NDE uses the state metric (AQuESTT - Accountability for a Quality Education System Today and Tomorrow).

English learners demonstrate proficiency with a score of 4s/5s on each domain-reading, writing, speaking, listening of the ELPA21 or Alt ELPA Assessments. English learners demonstrate growth through the [AQuESTT Accountability charts for ELPA21 and Alt ELPA Assessments](#). Districts can view their data with the [ADVISER \(Advanced Data Views Improving Student Educational Response\) reports](#). Language acquisition is a process and the NDE recognizes the value of growth. Students are considered “on track” when they are making progress toward proficiency. As districts review their EL data, they can evaluate their school improvement goals and action steps.

If English learners are not making progress, there are a number of things districts can do to support them. The [ELP and Alt ELP standards](#) and the proficiency level descriptors guide instruction and appropriate expectations for English learners at various stages of language acquisition. All teachers should have an understanding of these standards and how they align to their content areas. ([ELP and Content Alignment](#), [Alt ELP and Content Extended Indicators Alignment](#)) The Academic Language webinar series ([Poster](#), [NeMTSS Supports](#), [Canvas Course](#)) highlights four practical components that are essential for English learners and actually benefit all students. These four components are high expectations, collaboration, comprehensible input, and language output. If districts implement these practices, they should see growth in their EL students’ performance.





Spotlight: NDE School Improvement Team

Over the past few months, the Office of Coordinated School and District Support has partnered closely with schools across the state to support school improvement efforts. This work has included hosting office hours in November and December to collaboratively review SY25 accountability data with school and district stakeholders, as well as conducting site visits focused on progress toward SY26 site goals, classroom observations, and identifying strengths and next steps.



Throughout January, the office facilitated support sessions, some in partnership with the EL team, creating space for school teams to reflect on current progress, consider what is working and what barriers exist, and identify next steps and needed supports. It has been exciting to engage with and learn alongside school leaders and teams as they focus on improving outcomes for students.

Guidance: [The Federal Designation Overview and Support Guidance](#) document is a resource to help districts understand accountability. In accordance with ESSA, the NDE must identify the lowest-performing 5% of Title I schools, high schools with low graduation rate, and schools with underperforming student groups. The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) operates two school accountability systems to meet both state and federal accountability requirements. Districts can learn more about the AQuESTT state classification system by visiting, <https://aquestt.com/resources/>.

Additional Resources:

- [uBEATS Interactive E-Learning through UNO](#). This is a great opportunity for students to complete pathways and earn a digital badge (free of charge for a limited time). Questions? Email ubeats@unmc.edu
- Check out this amazing Google Notebook full of resources for MLs - [ELL2.0](#)
- [NDE EL Professional Development Resources](#)
- Academic Language Webinar Series and [PLC Guide for Strengthening EL/ML Practices](#)
- [Pathwise12](#) (formerly TransACT ParentNotices) There are documents to support all areas of education. NDE currently provides the subscription and anyone can [self-onboard](#). [Log in here](#). (The subscription with NDE will end after this school year.)
- New [Differentiation Flipbook volume 2](#) from ELPA21



Questions: Please contact us with any questions or concerns regarding your EL/ML students or program.

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