

Nebraska Performance Accountability System [NePAS] 1.1

Background and Proposal of Framework

January 7, 2014

Nebraska Department of Education: Assessment-Accountability

Background Information

Nebraska Department of Education has taken steps to implement an accountability system for Nebraska school districts.

November 2, 2009: The Nebraska State Board of Education adopted as policy the *Standards, Assessment, and Accountability (SAA) Belief Statement* and affirmed the policy 11-09-12.

November 3, 2010: The Nebraska State Board of Education adopted as policy Nebraska State Accountability Framework: Part I: Beliefs, Values, and Purposes

August 9, 2012: Pursuant to Section 79-760.06: The Nebraska State Board of Education adopted as policy Nebraska Performance Accountability System [NePAS], which provides multiple scores and rankings for school districts in NeSA-Reading, Math, Science, Writing and for Graduation rate.

Since 2012: The members of the Ad Hoc Accountability Committee have been reviewing the current Nebraska Accountability Performance System as they have discussed the next generation of NePAS that will combine multiple indicators into a single measure for each school building and district. NePAS 1.1 would move beyond the philosophy of “shining the light” to providing a fair accountability system that identifies high- and low-performing school districts, recognizes success, and also provides support for school improvement.

In addition, while the indicators being considered for NePAS 1.1 are comprised of data currently available—NeSA performance, NeSA participation, and graduation rate--the committee has also has considered other possible indicators to be included in the future that would augment the accountability lens.

Proposal of Framework

January 2014: In response to Proposed LB# 438, the Nebraska Department of Education has drafted an overview of an accountability system to combine multiple indicators into a single measure for each school building and district, set goals, assign a classification for each building and district, set consequences for the lowest performing school buildings, and recognize high-performing schools.

The goals of the proposed NePAS changes are to:

- a. Develop an effective system that provides fair accountability for schools in order to enhance opportunity to learn for every student in every school in Nebraska
- b. Partner with school districts to provide support for improved student learning
- c. Partner with the Legislature by providing this *Nebraska Performance Accountability System [NePAS] 1.1 Background and Proposal of Framework* to guide NDE as it moves forward.

Below are general information and a summary of the indicators proposed to be combined into a single measure.

Policy Issue	Overview
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NeSA Reading, Writing, Math, Science—Participation and Performance-- and Graduation Rate
Performance Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Goals established for NeSA-Reading, Math, Science, Writing, and Graduation Rate
Levels of Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School/School Building• District
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A 95% participation rate is a minimum. Additional points awarded for exceeding the minimum and points subtracted for not meeting the minimum. Point assignments not yet determined.
NeSA Results-Status ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A number of points provided for status. Weighting to be determined.
NeSA Results-Improvement ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A number of points provided for improvement. Weighting to be determined.
NeSA Results-Growth ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A number of points provided for growth. Weighting to be determined.
Graduation rate – 4 year and 6 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Award points for four-year cohort graduation rate graduation rate and six-year cohort graduation
Subgroup inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subgroup performance will be determined through use of supergroup⁴ designation
Minimum group size for accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A minimum number for reporting will be applied--to be determined.
Consequences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intervention for schools in greatest need of improvement
Number of classifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Such as five levels of classification --to be determined

1. **Status** is an indicator of students' NeSA achievement for the current year.
2. **Improvement** is the change in previous year's status compared to this year's status. Improvement is based on the scores from all tested students each year.
3. **Growth** is the change of individual students' previous year's scores compared to the current year's scores. Growth is based on the matched sample of students who were tested both years.
4. A **Supergroup** is identified for two purposes:
 - to avoid having some student scores count multiple times and
 - to create a group with enough students that more schools are included in accountability for at-risk students.

A **Supergroup** is defined in one of two ways:

- by combining No Child Left Behind [NCLB] subgroups or
- by defining a new group—for example, students scoring below proficient.