

Technical Advisory Committee  
**Nebraska Department of Education**  
**November 7, 2012**  
**Cornhusker Marriott Hotel Lincoln, NE 8:30 am-3:00 pm**

**8:30 AM**      **Welcome and Introductions- Valorie**

**8:40 AM**      **Approve Minutes – Brian**

**8:40-9:45**      **Update: Check for Learning Valorie, Jeremy**  
(Document 1)

Check for Learning [C4L] is in its second year of use with 176 districts that have signed the Memorandum of Understanding and use the system. Last year 139 districts administered 135,000 tests statewide. Over four thousand items have been written, reviewed, and entered into the system, thousands more are being reviewed, and updates to streamline the interim system were added this year. Nebraska Department of Education manages the item bank and can review district-testing frequency. Student result data are housed in the school district side of the system, which is available to districts only. (Demonstration of C4L.)

*Question: What suggestions does the TAC have for NDE to partner with school districts to conduct research studies to support the evaluation and ongoing maintenance of Check for Learning? How can NDE help school districts maximize the effective use of C4L?*

**9:45-10:00**      **Break**

**10:00-11:30**      **Update: Nebraska State Accountability [NeSA] 2012 Valorie**  
(Document 2)

Nebraska has completed its third year of NeSA reading assessment, second year of math, and first year of science. Writing at 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades was administered on-line in 2012 for the first time and scored using the analytic rubric. New standard setting for writing at grades 8 and 11 took place in April 2012. While fourth grade writing will remain a paper/pencil assessment, analytic scoring and standard setting will take place for 4<sup>th</sup> grade writing in 2013. Standard setting for NeSA-Science took place in June 2012.

*Question: What suggestions does the TAC have for research studies to support the ongoing validation, maintenance, and/or development of NeSA?*

**11:30-12:30**      **Working Lunch-- Discussion of NeSA Security Valorie**  
(Document 3)

Caveon conducted a security evaluation of NeSA implementation in 2012. NDE has

formalized security procedures in 2013 and has prepared a draft of a Nebraska Security Manual.

Question: *What does the TAC suggest for minimal and ideal forensic analysis given current issues being uncovered nationally and the specific context in Nebraska?*

**12:30-12:45**     **Break**

**12:45-2:45**     **Update: Nebraska Performance Accountability System [NePAS] Valorie (Document 4)**

In November of 2010, the State Board of Education voted to approve the Framework of State Accountability that identifies the beliefs, values and purposes of such a system. In August of 2012 the Nebraska State Board of Education approved a policy to initiate an accountability system based on status, growth, and improvement--derived from NeSA scores—participation, and graduation rate. Section I of NePAS provides rankings according to grade-level configurations and district. Grade-level configurations are used in order to provide data that are comparable across districts. Section II provides scores by grade in buildings and districts with no rankings. Participation is also included.

The decision was made to include in rankings any districts with ten or more students. In math and reading 249 schools out of 249 have enough students to be included in rankings. However, in science, which is administered in grades 5, 8, and 11, and in writing, which is administered in grades 4, 8, and 11, fewer schools are reportable for 2012 due to numbers fewer than ten.

*What are the TAC's thoughts about use of grade-level configurations in Section 1? What are the advantages and disadvantages of including multiple rankings? Would it be appropriate to combine scores in order to include more schools in science and writing? Can TAC recommend ways to reduce the number of rankings without reducing to a single number? Does TAC have additional recommendations about the parameters of reporting? Does TAC have observations about the growth model? How can NDE provide leadership to schools as they continue to frame their message to the public?*

**2:45-3:00**     Wrap up and next steps.

Dates for future TAC meetings

- Spring 2013
- Fall 2013