



Friday News Blast



12-14-2018

NeCounts

The Nebraska Department of Education – Office of Special Education is in the process of developing a revised/improved Accountability system called “NeCounts” to provide statewide support to districts, ESUs, and regions. The goal of the revisions to the statewide accountability system is to create a comprehensive process that looks at all districts across a variety of factors/indicators that affect outcomes for students with disability. This process will include the development of a data profile in which districts will have the opportunity to provide the story behind the data in order to drive supports needed to ensure students with disabilities are successful. This process will result in “annual” monitoring for all districts.

From here, the process will engage districts in a more meaningful dialogue in all of the data that districts currently report, enhancing a communication system between NDE and the district to develop improvements in moving Nebraska forward. This new process will then use a risk analysis to develop district categories that include high, medium, and low risk. From this process, the top 20% of districts in the highest risk category will then have a deeper monitoring process.

The NeCounts monitoring/accountability process will take the place of the 5 year cycle of compliance monitoring previously used by the Office of Special Education. This process will also run from January to December. With this, the risk determinations for districts will be released this December and the Office of Special Education will be reaching out to districts individually with this information. From these determinations, the 20% highest risk districts will also be contacted to begin the focused monitoring process based on their data.

We appreciate all districts support as we continue to build out more meaningful and useful accountability systems within our office that will ultimately enhance what you are all doing every day to provide quality support to students with disabilities.

Transitions and Alignment from Preschool to Kindergarten

Source: Education Commission of the States

This [special report from the Education Commission of the States](#) (September 2018) provides educators and policymakers state examples and strategies for promoting a "seamless system of education" that connects one program to the next and reduces both the child's stress and loss of skills or knowledge during the transition from preschool to kindergarten.

How to Get Families Engaged in Early Intervention (EI)

Attached is a research article, written by Dathan Rush, published in the ASHA Leader October 2018. Dathan has and continues to do a lot of EI work in Nebraska with our local Planning Region Teams. The article specifically addresses how to get families engaged in EI and talks simply about the changes that have occurred in EI over the past 20 years.

ACT Teacher Survey

Attached is a copy of the survey that was mentioned on the October Director's call. Have your teachers fill this out and upload it with the other information that they provide when requesting accommodations through the TAA System. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Sharon Heater at 402-471-4356 sharon.heater@nebraska.gov or Iris Owens in Assessment at 402-471-4316 iris.owens@nebraska.gov

Managing the ILCD 3. Website Update

Some district users may have already discovered this tip but in case you haven't, please remember that only one individual can be entering and saving on the ILCD 3.0 site at a time. Multiple users at the same time will result in loss of data. If you have any other technical difficulties, please take a screen shot of the error message and send to Robyn Gonzales robyn.gonzales@nebraska.gov.

The Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) is due **December 1, 2018**.

Have a great weekend and stay warm,

Steve and Amy