



# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## Data, Research, & Evaluation Coronavirus FAQ

### ATTENDANCE/ABSENCE

#### **How will NDE calculate data elements that make use of individual-level attendance/absence information (e.g. Average Daily Attendance (ADA), chronic absenteeism)?**

NDE is exploring the possibility of making these calculations using data submitted prior to the closure of attendance centers. Under this proposal, for example, ADA and chronic absenteeism calculations could be made for only those dates attendance centers were physically open. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

#### **Do public school districts still have to report student-level attendance/absence data given the closure of physical attendance centers?**

NDE knows from the point that schools began operating remotely that there are varying approaches to capturing attendance, participation, engagement and check ins. The NDE encourages continuing the processes implemented by the district through the remainder of the school year and continuing to report absences/attendance as determined locally. The data will be used to inform internal approaches and future guidance, yet will not be used for calculations.

### CALENDARS

## **Do school districts need to submit new or revised calendars?**

School districts can keep their calendars in place, as submitted, unless they are planning to significantly (+/-5) change the number of calendar days, either longer or shorter. If calendars need to be adjusted, school districts should contact their Student Information System (SIS) vendor or the NDE Helpdesk for support (ADVISERHelp@nebraskacloud.org or 888.285.0556).

## **ENROLLMENT**

### **Does a public school district still have to enroll students given the closure of physical attendance centers?**

Yes.

### **Do school districts need to have a student physically come into a school building for enrollment?**

Nothing in statute or state regulation requires physical presence of a person for enrollment.

### **Does a public school district still have to report student-level membership and enrollment data given the closure of physical attendance centers?**

Yes.

### **If a student moves during the last quarter of the 19-20 school year (within a district), are school districts required to change the student's school assignment, if the student would have changed schools?**

Yes. If the student is receiving educational services from a new school, the student should be enrolled at the new school.

### **If a student moves during the last quarter of the 19-20 school year (to a new school district), are school districts required to enroll the student into the new school district?**

Yes. If the student is receiving educational services from a new district, the student should be enrolled at the new school.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM HOURS**

### **Should school districts exclude any instructional program hours reported to NDE beyond a specific date?**

School districts should not report on hours, including E-Learning hours, for dates beyond when students are physically present in attendance centers. However, school districts will still need to track contacts and “Hours” for progress monitoring on a student’s IEP, but this is not reported to NDE. NDE will be providing an end of school year checklist in the coming days.

### **Do school districts have to submit their actual instructional hours, even if below the required minimum?**

Yes, including hours/minutes for early childhood education.

### **If school districts are below the required number of instructional hours, is there a process for seeking a waiver from this requirement?**

Yes. School districts will need to submit a sworn statement (affidavit) requesting a waiver, including for early childhood education. More information about the waiver process will be provided as it becomes available.

### **If an approved, nonpublic (Rule 14) school is below the required number of instructional hours, is there a process for seeking a waiver from this requirement?**

Yes. Approved, nonpublic schools will need to submit a sworn statement requesting a waiver. More information about the waiver process will be provided as it becomes available.

## **NEBRASKA READING IMPROVEMENT ACT**

## **Are there any flexibilities being provided for the requirements of the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act?**

Executive Order No. 20-20 from the Office of the Governor waives the requirement of a school district administering an approved reading assessment three times during the 2019-2020 school year. Assessments administered prior to March 13, 2020 shall be used for the purposes of the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act. There are no reporting requirements for the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act. Questions related to requirements of Individual Reading Improvement Plans (IRIPs) can be directed to NDE's Reading Specialist, Dr. Abby Burke.

## **PRESCHOOL GOLD ASSESSMENT REPORTING**

### **Are there any flexibilities being provided to the data collection/reporting requirements associated with GOLD assessments?**

Programs are not required to collect GOLD assessment data for the final checkpoint unless students designated as SPED. Currently, the NDE has not received information or guidance allowing relief from the May 31st data collection checkpoint requirement from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The federal requirement is to report on the progress children make when receiving early intervention services or special education services. In order to comply with this federal requirement, NDE must rely on finalized checkpoints by the district for each child exiting services.

Therefore, the May 31st data checkpoint is only required for the following children exiting within the July 1, 2109 to June 30, 2020 reporting period:

- Preschoolers on IEPs, receiving Part B, special education services if the child is exiting due to no longer receiving services, or transitioning to Kindergarten.
- Infants and toddlers, receiving Part C, early intervention services if the child is exiting due to being 3 years of age or no longer receiving services.

Additionally, NDE is suspending the requirement of documentation for the spring checkpoint period. Administrators are still required to 'exit' children from OSEP when the child turns 3 years of age, is no longer receiving services, or transitioning to kindergarten.

Here is the link to the guidance on the NDE website:

[https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/GOLD-Communication-Rev-4\\_10\\_20.pdf](https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/GOLD-Communication-Rev-4_10_20.pdf)

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION (SPED)**

### **Must IEP meetings continue?**

See the Special Education section of this FAQ for more information.

### **Are there opportunities to finish IEPs by a different date, such as upon student return in the fall?**

See the Special Education section of this FAQ for more information.

### **Are there any year-end reporting requirements for SPED that are waived?**

See the Special Education section of this FAQ for more information.

## **STAFF DATA**

**During the COVID-19 school building closures, some paraprofessionals are working in positions other than in their originally assigned positions. Do school districts need to end date**

**paraprofessional assignments in Staff Reporting 2019-2020,  
especially for those staff being paid with SPED funds?**

The Office of Special Education will be as flexible as possible. Schools should contact Amy Rhone, Administrator for the Office of Special Education, for more information (amy.rhone@nebraska.gov, 402.471.4323).

**STUDENT GRADES**

**Do school districts have to assign a final grade for all students?**

Where possible, school districts should assign final student grades.

**Can school districts assign pass/fail grades instead of letter grades?**

Yes. As has always been the case, school districts can determine the form (e.g. letter grade, pass/fail, etc.) of student grades. However, this may require a change to local board policies.

**STUDENT COURSES/TEACHERS**

**Do school districts have to report student courses and teacher data?**

Yes, this data should still be reported.

**SUMMER SCHOOL DATA**

**I see no reference to summer school in Rule 10. Can you direct me to the best resource for regulations regarding credit bearing classes offered during summer school?**

Rule 10 does not provide any guidance related to summer school. NDE will be providing more information about the summer school in the coming days.

**Does virtual summer school qualify the same as in person classes for funding purposes?**

Virtual summer school qualifies the same as in person classes. Virtual class may not take as much time as in person class and cannot be measured exactly the same way so schools can use judgement to determine they are virtually providing at least similar educational experience as the minimum requirement noted in statute to qualify for the summer school allowance. If that is the case you may report those amounts in the summer school student unit report.

## Listing of 19-20 Year-End ADVISER Collections

[https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ADVISER\\_Calendar\\_20192020\\_v2\\_1.pdf](https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ADVISER_Calendar_20192020_v2_1.pdf)

DATES	2019-2020 ADVISER DATA	DATA USES
November 1, 2019 – June 15, 2020	<b>2019-2020 Year End Collection</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Student Demographics <sup>2, 6, 8</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Courses and Sections</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Student Grades</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Student School Attendance <sup>1, 6</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> School Enrollment (2019-2020 Completers) <sup>6, 7</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Special Education Program <sup>4, 5</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Title I Program</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Career Education Program (Concentrators) <sup>3</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Program</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Program <sup>2, 7</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rule 18 Interim School Program</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2018-2019 Post School Survey <sup>3</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Student Discipline <sup>9, 10</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Food Program <sup>6, 7, 11</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> English Learner Program <sup>6, 7, 12</sup></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><sup>1</sup> Data used for State Aid Calculation</li> <li><sup>2</sup> Nebraska Education Profile</li> <li><sup>3</sup> Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act Report</li> <li><sup>4</sup> Extract for Medicaid in Public Schools (MIPS) 24th day of each month</li> <li><sup>5</sup> Data used for Special Education Exiters</li> <li><sup>6</sup> Data used for AQuESTT and/or Assessment</li> <li><sup>7</sup> Cohort Graduation Rate and Dropout Rate calculations</li> <li><sup>8</sup> Extract for High Ability Learner Eligible</li> <li><sup>9</sup> Extract for Suspensions, Expulsions, &amp; GFSA</li> <li><sup>10</sup> Extract for Special Education Discipline</li> <li><sup>11</sup> Extract for Nutrition Services (Direct Certification) and for Free &amp; Reduced Price Lunch Counts</li> <li><sup>12</sup> English Learner Participant / Eligibility Counts</li> </ol>

## Listing of 19-20 Year-End CDC Collections

*Data Collections Open February 14 - Due May 15, 2020*

- Nonpublic Federal Programs Within Boundaries Consultation
  - Public
- Title I Nonpublic Consultation Form
  - Public

*Data Collections Open May 1 – Due June 15  
(Audit window close June 30)*

- Substitute Teachers
  - Public
  - Special Purpose
  - NonPublic
  - ESU
  - Interim Programs
- Annual Participation Report
  - Public
  - ESU
- Days in Session/Instructional Program Hours
  - Public (Instructional Programs only)
  - Special Purpose (Instructional Programs only)
  - NonPublic – Days in Session and Instructional Programs
- ESU/District/System/School Information Report



- Public
  - Special Purpose
  - NonPublic
  - ESU
  - Interim Programs
- Nebraska Education Profile (NEP) Information
  - Public
- Pupil Transportation
  - Public
  - Special Purpose
  - NonPublic
  - ESU
- NonPublic High School Completer Report
  - NonPublic
- Report of Suspension/Expulsions
  - NonPublic