

Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council  
Professional Development Committee Meeting

May 7, 2019 at 9:00 AM Central

ESU No.10  
76 Plaza Blvd  
Kearney, NE 68845

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Agenda Item

1. PDO Meetings

1. PDO May - Brad Geise

2. PDO Structure

2. NDE - CSI/ELLC/NLLN

3. Monthly Talking Points


4. Approve AdvancED Partnership

5. Value Add Bold Step

6. Service Inventory

4. Next Meeting Agenda Items

5. Adjournment



*To lead and support the preparation of all  
Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living.*

# **2017-2026 STRATEGIC VISION AND DIRECTION**

Nebraska State Board of Education and Nebraska  
Department of Education

12/02/16

## **Nebraska State Board of Education**

The State Board of Education is an elected, constitutional body that is the policy forming and evaluative body for the state school program (79-301 (2) R.R.S.) in addition to ensuring the State Department of Education functions effectively within the framework developed by the state Legislature and the Board. The Board is elected on a non-partisan ballot, with one member from each district. Board members serve four-year terms.

District 3: Rachel Wise, President

District 1: Lillie Larsen, Vice President

District 2: Glen Flint

District 4: John Witzel

District 5: Patricia Timm

District 6: Maureen Nickels

District 7: Molly O 'Holleran

District 8: Patrick McPherson

## **Nebraska Department of Education**

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) is a constitutional agency comprised of services, programs, Vocational Rehabilitation (Nebraska VR), and Disabilities Determination Section (DDS). The NDE operates under the authority of an elected State Board of Education (Board) and the Commissioner of Education (Commissioner). The NDE is organized into teams that carry out the duties assigned by state and federal statutes and the policy directions of the Board. Teams are organized around distinct functions and responsibilities that encompass leadership and support for Nebraska's system of early childhood, primary, secondary, and postsecondary education; direct services to clients; and internal support to the agency.

The NDE carries out its duties on behalf of Nebraska students and parents involved in public and nonpublic school systems. The NDE staff interacts with schools, parents, businesses, community partners, and institutions of higher education to develop, coordinate, and improve educational programs and services.

Commissioner of Education: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.

# Strategic Vision and Direction – 2017-2026

## Introduction

In January of 2016, the Board and the NDE initiated the development of a Strategic Plan to guide the vision and direction of education in Nebraska for the next ten years. Nebraska's Strategic Plan to be known as **Nebraska Quality Education Systems for Today and Tomorrow (NEQuESTT)** represents the evolution of a philosophical and practical approach to supporting education in Nebraska. This commitment unifies and strengthens positive outcomes for each and every Nebraskan through bold and achievable goals. **NEQuESTT** not only outlines the critical needs and strengths within the system, but also reflects innovative approaches to ensure each Nebraskan has equitable access to opportunities and are ready for success in postsecondary, career, and civic life. **NEQuESTT** is the educational journey that puts forth a new vision and bold agenda for the system of education in Nebraska. This vision will require new and different ways of working together, stretching beyond the status quo, and engaging stakeholders through collaborative processes. The strategic plan defines a direction for accountability and a system of services and supports without losing sight of the importance of ensuring compliance with state and federal policies.

**NEQuESTT** guides the Board and the NDE to address some of the most urgent priorities within Nebraska. With an intentional and comprehensive focus on ensuring a reduction in educational inequities for the most vulnerable populations, this strategic plan directs focus on student- or client-centered outcomes, high quality opportunities, and a strong system of support **for every student, every day**.

## NEQuESTT and AQuESTT

**NEQuESTT** aligns with Nebraska's accountability system, Accountability for a Quality Education System Today and Tomorrow (**AQuESTT**). The six critical tenets of **AQuESTT** holistically address accountability and quality education in Nebraska. Originally designed to meet statutory accountability requirements, **AQuESTT** has quickly grown beyond and guides the NDE and its work.

**AQuESTT** provides a fundamental focus on achievement and opportunity gaps and ensures strategies produce equitable outcomes for each and every learner. As a result, **NEQuESTT** includes goals with benchmarks that measure disaggregated data to ensure equity and access.

## Roles:

In order to support strategic priorities, a suite of approaches is utilized that reflects the nuance of the work and the many stakeholders, systems, and partners that intersect to support a state education system. The various roles are:

**Champion - NDE actively leads the strategic vision, goals, and policy direction to support learning, earning, and living by:**

- Engaging key stakeholders and partners on emerging needs in the educational landscape and corresponding policy advocacy approach
- Exercising policy leadership and proactively engaging and partnering with the Unicameral and Governor on priority issues
- Advocating for necessary resources to meet needs and/or address issues to execute the vision

**Regulator - NDE leverages policy authority to ensure delivery of high-quality, equitable education and services, beyond compliance with state and federal regulations by:**

- Assuring access to fair, equitable, and high-quality education and services
- Monitoring school and districts to ensure adherence to regulations and setting expectations beyond compliance for accountability and growth in learning
- Promoting best practices for leadership and using data and resources to ensure effective continuous improvement

**Capacity Builder - NDE directs technical assistance and professional development opportunities and promotes the sharing of best practices by:**

- Providing technical assistance and professional development opportunities for educators, staff, and community providers
- Actively engaging with priority and needs improvement schools as well as continuing to support the improvement of all schools
- Identifying schools and districts across the state with effective educational practices to gather data on successful practices
- Acting as a facilitator to connect schools to highlight learnings, share lessons learned, and communicate best practices
- Developing, maintaining, and leveraging strong working relationships with education and community partners to extend and enhance capacity across the state

**Connector - NDE helps bridge the divide between learning, earning, and living, connecting schools, families, business, and communities by:**

- Connecting, convening, and partnering with schools, businesses, out-of-school programs, postsecondary education, state agencies, and community providers to create a more comprehensive approach to education and service delivery
- Supporting other agencies and organizations in active engagement and relationship building amongst individuals, parents, and families

**Change Agent - NDE explores and supports promising new innovations by:**

- Researching, promoting, and providing support for promising new initiatives and innovations in education across the state and nation (e.g., promising activities in rural areas, blended learning, personalized learning, adult basic education)
- Providing ongoing training, support, and resources to drive the adoption of new practices and to assure implementation

## Strategic Direction:

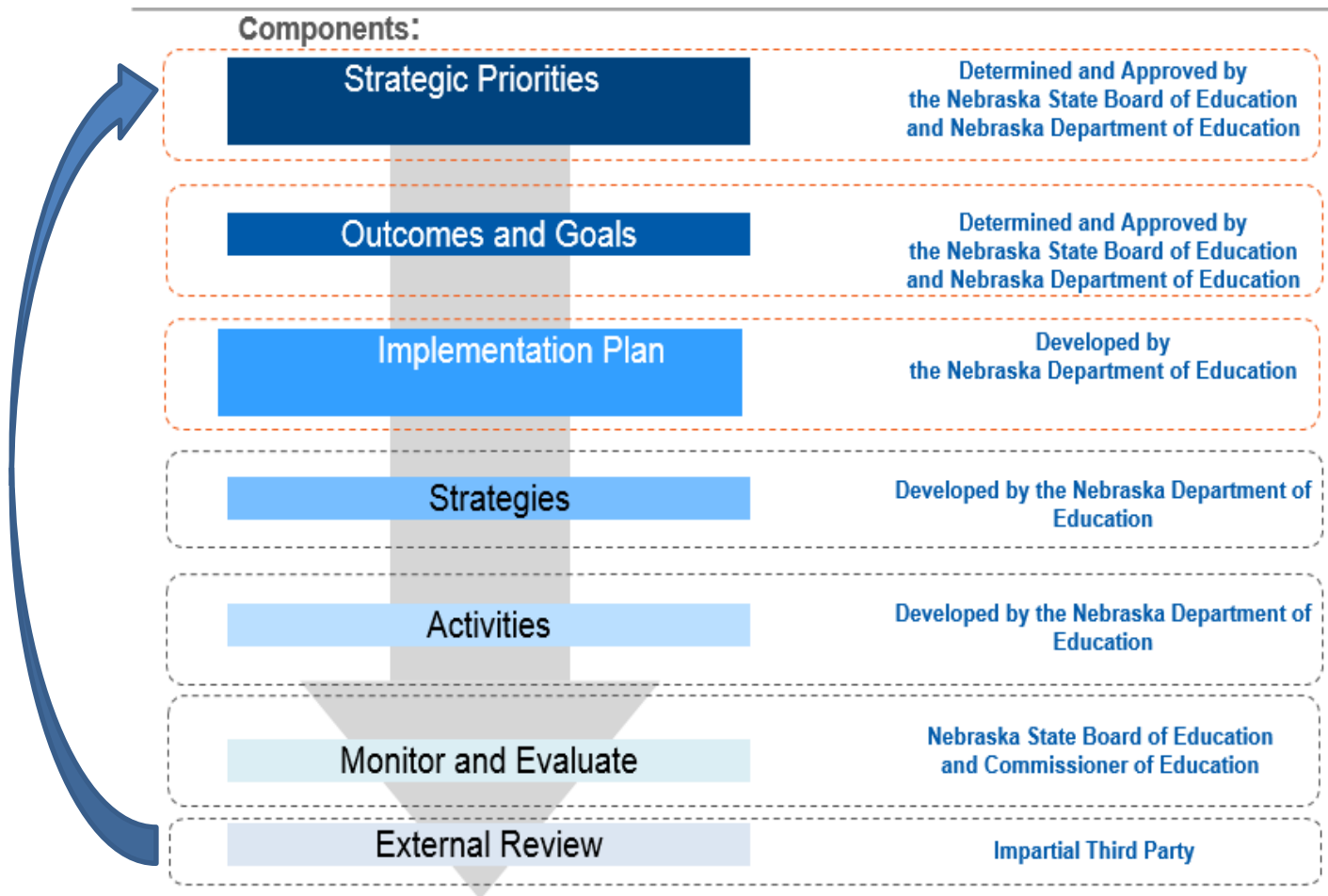
To realize the new strategic vision it can no longer be business as usual.

	FROM	TO
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizational structure primarily oriented around subject area silos</li> <li>Decision-making authority mostly concentrated in hands of senior agency leadership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More cross-functional, with collaboration and communication across teams</li> <li>More distributed decision-making authority, where staff closer to the issue is empowered to make relevant decisions</li> </ul>
PERSONNEL & STAFFING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff with very specific skills focused primarily on content knowledge</li> <li>Traditional focus on regulation and compliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broader staff expertise, including both content knowledge and breadth of experiences (e.g., relationship building, background in business, work with underserved communities)</li> <li>Focus on leadership, innovation, and learning</li> </ul>
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sporadic engagement on an as-needed basis</li> <li>Limited engagement with specific populations or cultural communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent and tailored stakeholder engagement plans for specific audiences, allowing authentic relationships and dialogue to develop</li> </ul>
DATA & SYSTEMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited publicly accessible data</li> <li>Focus on accountability and compliance</li> <li>Cumbersome website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Readily available data for all stakeholders from an easy to use, up-to-date platform</li> <li>Focus on performance management</li> <li>User-friendly website and an online portal with lessons learned and best practices for practitioners</li> </ul>

## Moving Forward:

The Board has taken into account the multiple roles of the NDE in the development of this strategic plan and in the expectations set forth for the NDE. This recognition is coupled with the expectation of providing quality, equitable support through a multi-faceted system under the charge of the NDE. The shared responsibility of leadership between the Board and the Commissioner includes developing this plan, monitoring goals, and implementing strategies through the NDE's programs and supports for schools, students, systems and clients across the state. The Board carries out this strategic plan through direction to the Commissioner. The Commissioner has the responsibility to build an implementation plan that makes **NEQUESTT** a living document utilizing the aforementioned roles and strategic direction outlined for organizational structure; personnel and staffing; stakeholder engagement; and data and systems.

## The strategic plan is multi-layered.



## Operational Approach:

**NEQUESTT** provides a framework for measuring multiple levels and processes to ensure success through standard, quantifiable metrics, artifacts, and evidence-based analyses utilizing a three-tiered approach:

- **NDE Accountability** – Process, regulations, support, interagency collaboration, data systems, fiscal responsibility, and evaluation
- **Service Accountability** – Quality and success of services provided by the agency
- **District and School Accountability** – School and agency progress and improvement

## Strategic Priorities, Outcomes, and Goals:

The Board and Commissioner will regularly review these goals as organized by the strategic priorities and outcomes. The NDE goals will include Commissioner and Board activities necessary to build the department's system of accountability and support for services and schools. The NDE will track progress on these goals and other metrics required by state and federal law. The Commissioner will annually report progress on these goals and other measures to report progress and performance to the Board.

## Implement, Monitor, and Evaluate:

The Board and the Commissioner share the responsibility to:

- champion and lead the strategic vision and goals.
- serve as change agents and capacity builders.
- ensure progress on the strategic priorities.

The Board and the Commissioner will be responsible for implementing this plan including the development of strategies, and activities, and monitoring on an annual basis. A review will be presented by the Commissioner and appropriate NDE personnel annually or as directed. An objective external review of **NEQUESTT** will be conducted by an impartial third-party reviewer two years after adoption and thereafter as determined by the Board with results being presented to stakeholders.

## MISSION

To lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living

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## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### NDE will:

- Create a dynamic vision that drives change through proactive leadership to support learning;
  - Build connections amongst stakeholders to take action in support of success for all learners;
  - Provide all Nebraskans significant opportunity to receive fair, equitable, and high-quality education and services to close achievement gaps;
  - Allow all learners to achieve their fullest potential in transitioning through phases of school and into civic life;
  - Ensure all educators are effective in instructional strategies and monitoring student progress using multiple measures of proficiency; and
  - Prepare all learners to be college, career, and civic-ready.
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## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Ensure that all Nebraskans, regardless of background or circumstances, have equitable access to opportunities for success

Increase the number of Nebraskans who are ready for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life

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## OUTCOME STATEMENTS

### Leadership

Provide leadership and high quality services in processes, regulations, interagency collaboration, data systems, fiscal responsibility and evaluation that enhance the success of educational systems in Nebraska.

### Success, Access, and Support

**Positive Partnerships and Student Success** – Increase student, family, and community engagement to enhance educational experiences and opportunities.

**Transitions** – Provide quality educational opportunities for student success through transitions between grade levels, programs, schools, postsecondary institutions, and careers.

**Educational Opportunities and Access** – Ensure that all students have access to comprehensive instructional opportunities to be prepared for postsecondary education and career.

### Teaching, Learning, and Serving

**College, Career, and Civic Ready** – Ensure every student upon completion of secondary education is prepared for postsecondary education, career, and civic opportunities.

**Assessment** – Use assessments to measure and improve student achievement and inform instruction.

**Educator Effectiveness** – Assure that students are supported by qualified/credentialed, effective teachers and leaders throughout their learning experiences.

## Leadership

**Strategic Priority:** Ensure that all Nebraskans, regardless of background or circumstances, have equitable access to opportunities for success.

**Strategic Priority:** Increase the number of Nebraskans who are ready for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life.

**Outcome Statement:** Provide leadership and high-quality services in processes, regulations, interagency collaboration, data systems, fiscal responsibility, and evaluation that enhance the success of educational systems in Nebraska.

- Goal 1.1** By 2018, the NDE will be organized through personnel and processes to provide leadership in school support systems, regulations, interagency collaboration, data systems, fiscal responsibility, and evaluation that will enhance the success of educational systems in Nebraska.
- Goal 1.2** By 2018, the Board and Commissioner will have a process in place to evaluate and ensure timely, high-quality services and systems of support provided by the Nebraska Department of Education.
- Goal 1.3** By 2020, 100% of teachers, service providers, school leaders and local school board members will have access to quality professional learning opportunities through an NDE facilitated professional learning directory.
- Goal 1.4** By 2020, the NDE will collaborate with the Governor, Legislature, postsecondary institutions, and the Educational Service Units (ESUs) to create a uniform process to align dual credit opportunities for students across the state.

## Success, Access, and Support

### Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Success

**Strategic Priority:** Ensure that all Nebraskans, regardless of background or circumstances, have equitable access to opportunities for success.

**Outcome Statement:** Increase student, family, and community engagement to enhance educational experiences and opportunities.

**Goal 2.1** By 2019, the NDE will develop a system to regularly engage and survey clients, schools, and stakeholders to gather input, and measure engagement and satisfaction.

**Goal 2.2** By 2026, the dropout rate of all Nebraska students including subgroups will be less than 1%.

**Goal 2.3** By 2026, 100% of Nebraska schools will have all students in grades 7-12 create and utilize a personal learning plan.

**Goal 2.4** By 2026, there will be a reduction in the percentage of students who are absent more than 10 days per year from 27.46% to 15%.

## Success, Access, and Support Transitions

**Strategic Priority:** Ensure that all Nebraskans, regardless of background or circumstances, have equitable access to opportunities for success.

**Outcome Statement:** Provide quality educational opportunities for student success through transitions between grade levels, programs, schools, postsecondary institutions, and careers.

- Goal 3.1**      **By 2018, a baseline and benchmarks will be developed to track all students with a disability having access to participate in career counseling, explorations, self-advocacy training, and work-based learning experiences.**
  
- Goal 3.2**      **By 2026, the 4-year cohort graduation rates for all Nebraska students will be greater than 92% and not less than 85% for any one subgroup.**
  
- Goal 3.3**      **By 2026, the 7-year cohort graduation rates for all Nebraska students will be greater than 95% and not less than 90% for any one subgroup.**
  
- Goal 3.4**      **By 2026, 100% of Nebraska schools will fully implement a systematic process for supporting the needs of highly-mobile students.**

**Success, Access, and Support**  
**Educational Opportunities and Access**

**Strategic Priority:** Ensure that all Nebraskans, regardless of background or circumstances, have equitable access to opportunities for success.

**Outcome Statement:** Ensure all students have access to comprehensive instructional opportunities to be prepared for postsecondary education and career.

**Goal 4.1**      **By 2020, NDE will develop a statewide digital course and content repository.**

**Goal 4.2**      **By 2026, 85% of all Nebraska students, upon graduation from high school, will have completed Advanced Placement coursework, earned dual credit and/or obtained industry certification.**

**Goal 4.3**      **By 2026, 95% of Nebraska elementary schools would be able to identify at least one high-quality early childhood educational program accessible to all of the school's resident preschool age population.**

**Teaching, Learning, and Serving**  
**College, Career, and Civic Ready**

**Strategic Priority:** Increase the number of Nebraskans who are ready for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life.

**Outcome Statement:** Ensure every student upon completion of secondary education is prepared for postsecondary education, career, and civic opportunities.

**Goal 5.1**      **By 2018, the State Board will adopt a comprehensive approach to define and measure civic readiness.**

**Goal 5.2**      **By 2020, all Nebraska elementary schools will provide evidence-based interventions for any students not on grade level in reading and/or math.**

**Goal 5.3**      **By 2026, 100% of Nebraska schools will provide all students with a program for career awareness, exploration, and preparation.**

**Goal 5.4**      **By 2026, at least 50% of all Nebraska high school students from any given cohort year, will have earned a college degree, credential, or certificate within five years of graduating from high school.**

## Teaching, Learning, and Serving

### Assessment

**Strategic Priority:** Increase the number of Nebraskans who are ready for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life.

**Outcome Statement:** Use assessments to measure and improve student achievement and inform instruction.

- Goal 6.1** By 2018, utilizing baseline data from the ACT, long-term goals will be developed for 11<sup>th</sup> grade achievement, including goals for subgroups.
- Goal 6.2** By 2018, the NDE will implement an assessment system to measure achievement and growth in grades 3-8 that meets the requirements of federal and state law and is timely for instructional purposes.
- Goal 6.3** By 2026, the percent of Nebraska students in grades 3-8 and 11 proficient in reading will increase from 79% to 89%.
- Goal 6.4** By 2026, the percent of Nebraska students in grades 3-8 and 11 proficient in math will increase from 72% to 82%.
- Goal 6.5** By 2026, the percent of Nebraska students in grades 3-8 and 11 proficient in science will increase from 72% to 82%.

## Teaching, Learning, and Serving

### Educator Effectiveness

**Strategic Priority:** Increase the number of Nebraskans who are ready for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life.

**Outcome Statement:** Assure students are supported by qualified/credentialed, effective teachers and leaders throughout their learning experiences.

**Goal 7.1**      **By 2018, NDE will develop and implement a statewide teacher equity plan.**

**Goal 7.2**      **By 2020, 100% of Nebraska schools will utilize performance standards and a research-based evaluation system for all certificated staff as aligned to Rule 10.**

**Goal 7.3**      **By 2022, 100% of Nebraska schools will be staffed by teachers who have or are actively pursuing a teaching certificate with the appropriate endorsement for the subject(s) and grade level(s) of the course(s) being taught.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The Nebraska State Board of Education and the Nebraska Department of Education give special thanks to the many partners who have provided input in the development of this strategic plan. We also recognize and appreciate the grant support of the Peter Kiewit Foundation and the Sherwood Foundation. The NDE is excited to continue collaboration in leading and supporting the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living.

## Professional Development, Services and Support

*provided by the Professional Services division of AdvancED | Measured Progress*

### Enhance Student Engagement

Increase educator understanding of effective instructional practices and classroom environments that are conducive to student learning. Choose from multiple training and support options, including:

#### **Workshops and coaching focused on using data to improve student learning**

**environments:** AdvancED | Measured Progress experts help your leadership team analyze and understand the elite classroom observation results. You receive guidance and recommendations for modifying instruction or learning environments to improve student engagement and learner outcomes.

#### **Workshop offerings include:**

- **Effective Learning Environments**

Gain an understanding of classroom conditions and teacher practices that inspire students to learn and grow. Through a guided review of seven effective learning environments, participants will discuss observable indicators of student engagement. Using the elite, participants will learn how to:

- ✓ Observe and document evidence of learner engagement
- ✓ Analyze classroom observation data to reflect on instructional practices
- ✓ Use results to guide professional growth and increase student engagement

- **Instructional Strategies**

When effective learning environments and instructional practices are connected to student interests, motivation increases and learning is enhanced. This interactive training session provides research-based, instructional strategies to engage students in deeper learning by:

- ✓ Activating prior knowledge
- ✓ Clarifying learning expectations
- ✓ Facilitating peer collaboration and feedback
- ✓ Integrating opportunities for critical thinking and problem-solving
- ✓ Increase the effectiveness of your lesson plans and instruction with proven strategies that engage all learners

- **Progress Monitoring and Feedback**

Progress monitoring and actionable feedback play an important role to engage students in the learning process. Through modeling, observation and practice, you will learn various techniques that can be immediately incorporated into instructional practice. This professional learning experience helps you:



**eleot® Calibration:** During eleot® calibration, a team of local experts works together with your staff to:

- Observe the same classrooms at the same time
- Collaboratively compare data and help you better understand and adjust your ratings
- Discuss outcomes to understand conclusions and determine recommended adjustments to instruction

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## **Develop Quality Assessments**

Assessment Services from Measured Progress provide collaboration and expertise to help districts and schools improve current tests or build customized assessments. Work with our assessment experts to audit your existing assessment program. Or work with us to create affordable, customized assessments based on your objectives and curricula scope and sequence. Services include:

**Assessment Review:** A review of your assessments to extend the expertise of your local and district staff. You decide the scope—from individual tests to your whole assessment program—for grades K–12, in English language arts, mathematics, and science. Initiate an expert review to:

- Ensure effectiveness of overall test design and structure
- Strengthen alignment to standards
- Confirm quality of test questions and stimuli
- Check for accuracy of scoring materials

**Test Construction Services:** Customized assessments built to your district's unique curriculum scope and sequence deliver meaningful results. They elicit the evidence required to demonstrate student understanding of targeted standards. Working with experts can help you get effective, efficient tests that measure what a student has been taught at milestone points throughout the year.

- Build test blueprints and select items for benchmark tests aligned to your district's curriculum scope and sequence
- Design performance-based assessments that provide students with the opportunity to more authentically demonstrate learning of multi-dimensional standards
- Create customized pre- and post-tests for use as common district assessments
- Develop computer- and paper-based interim assessments to monitor student learning

**Assessment Professional Development:** Educators will learn how to use assessments to provide meaningful information for different stakeholders in the educational system. We will focus on deepening your understanding of high-quality assessment design related to standards alignment, depth of knowledge and item format, and sharing helpful strategies for getting the most out your assessments and data.

**Workshop for educators:**

- **Connecting Assessment to Learning: A Multiple Measures Approach**  
An effective assessment system is one that incorporates formative, interim and summative assessment to provide meaningful information for different stakeholders in the educational system. By understanding the purposeful design and data limitations of each type of assessment within your local assessment system, you can gain greater insights about where students are and where they need to be in their K-12 learning journey. This workshop will help you evaluate the effectiveness of your assessments to ensure they are producing informative and valid evidence of student understanding - from the very individualized information of formative assessment to the broader view of summative.
- **Understanding Text Complexity to Improve Reading Instruction (Webinar)**  
Students are required to evaluate and synthesize ever-increasing levels of text complexity. This interactive webinar will highlight the qualitative and quantitative characteristics of texts and reader tasks to inform instruction. Learn effective strategies for scaffolding reading tasks based on student learning needs to promote higher levels of reading comprehension in your classroom.

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## Expand STEM Teaching and Learning

**Workshops and Consulting:** Integrate the AdvancED STEM Standard and research-based best practices that are vital to create and sustain superior STEM programs. Collaborate with experts to plan how to make specific, identified shifts in practice and professional learning related to STEM teaching and learning at your school. Take part in professional learning sessions such as:

**Workshop for Educators:**

- **Creating a Culture to Support STEM teaching and Learning**  
A strong STEM education is a key driver of opportunity, and data show that STEM knowledge and skills are critical for student success. In this workshop, you'll learn strategies to increase effectiveness of your STEM program and explore best practices to create and sustain STEM programs. This professional learning opportunity is focused on:
  - ✓ Exploring research-based best practices that are vital to create and sustain superior STEM programs
  - ✓ Assessing the state of your current STEM program
  - ✓ Increasing the effectiveness and impact of STEM teaching and learning
  - ✓ Discovering strategies to create and sustain community partnerships that support STEM programs

- **Supporting Formative Assessment Practices with [STEM Gauge®](#)**
  - ✓ The tools provided in STEM Gauge help engage students and support teachers in the formative assessment process.

**Additional workshop topics include:**

- **Meeting the Demands of the Future Through Quality STEM Education Programs**
- **Understanding the 3 Dimensions of the Next Generation Science Standards**

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## Increase Strategic Thinking and Planning for School Leaders

**Workshops and Coaching:** Establish actionable strategies that cultivate a culture of continuous improvement, using the dynamic process facilitated by eProve™ Strategies, part of the eProve™ suite. Professional learning is focused on:

- Delving more deeply into each phase of the process through facilitated discussions with professional experts and a peer learning community
- Developing a strategic action plan that reflects your school's unique needs,
- Building your leadership capacity to cultivate a culture of continuous improvement

Training and support include consultation services and group coaching as well as regional workshops to support your staff in the continuous improvement process, including the following professional learning opportunity.

**Workshop for Educators:**

- **Applied Strategic Thinking and Planning**

Workshop participants participate in activities and exploration that help them think more strategically about the future. They gain insights to lead their staff and community and ignite positive change. This workshop is for education leaders who are looking to:

  - ✓ Increase leadership skills in data-driven strategic thinking and improvement planning
  - ✓ Maximize use of resources and focus day-to-day decision making
  - ✓ Gain an understanding of how to apply the inFocus guide and use eProve strategies tools

### Continuous Improvement Analysis

The continuous improvement journey is different for every school. The important factor is that each and every school creates a culture of continuous improvement and intentionally maps their journey to ensure success for all learners. Engaging in a continuous improvement self-analysis, using AdvancED Performance Standards as the foundation, an Improvement Specialist will facilitate a conversation to help school leadership identify strengths, challenges, and areas for improvement. A written report of school level findings is included and customized professional learning is available at each step of the Continuous Improvement Analysis.

### Support Improvement for Comprehensive and Targeted Schools

**Workshops and Coaching:** Engage your leadership team in data-driven improvement planning with a diagnostic needs assessment, technical assistance, and coaching support. Support includes:

- Overview of the AdvancED | Measured Progress Diagnostic Review and improvement process
- Facilitation to conduct an evidence-based needs assessment
- Onsite third-party Diagnostic Review to gather and examine evidence of organizational effectiveness
- Leadership capacity building with the identification of improvement priorities and development of an actionable improvement plan

Training and support include consultation services and group coaching as well as regional workshops to support your staff in the continuous improvement process. Learn about the four-step Diagnostic Review and improvement process that helps you ignite and sustain transformational change in your institution.

### **A Diagnostic Framework for School Turnaround: Resources for Comprehensive and Targeted Schools**

#### **Workshop for Educators:**

As experts in evaluation and school quality, we're committed to helping struggling schools turn their potential into practice. This workshop introduces you to a proven, four-step Diagnostic Review and Improvement process that will guide your leadership team to address root causes for underperformance, determine improvement actions, and build capacity to champion meaningful change and effective continuous improvement.



The AdvancED | Measured Progress Diagnostic Review and Improvement process meets the ESSA Tier 2—Moderate Evidence designation. Title I or 1003 school improvement funding may be applied to these professional services.

\*Professional development workshops can also be customized to meet the needs of your school's educators and leaders. Please contact your Regional Director for more information.

## **Nebraska Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (ESUCC) Partnership Agreement**

AdvancED | Measured Progress partners with education organizations to help build their capacity and ability to be successful – ultimately improving education for every child. As a non-profit organization committed to providing high quality, forward-thinking and affordable education expertise and best practices to the global education community, we look for and invest in high quality partnerships with institutions that share our passion for continuous learning and improvement. AdvancED | Measured Progress values and appreciates the rich expertise and collaborative contributions education partners provide toward expanding knowledge and informational outreach within their members. Work within these vital organizations helps to create a critical mass of stakeholders with a shared vision of excellence and lays the foundation for transformative impacts.

In Nebraska, the State Department and Board of Education have adopted an accountability system, AQuESTT, built upon best practices to support continuous improvement and accountability for public institutions. The AdvancED research-based Performance Standards, School/Quality Factors and eProve™ resources align with the tenets of AQuESTT ([Refer to Crosswalk](#)). Together, these combined resources enable institutions to engage in a systematic, systemic, and sustainable approach leading to impactful improvements. A majority of Education Service Units in Nebraska have voluntarily held themselves to higher standards and public accountability through *AdvancED Performance Accreditation for Quality Education Service Agencies* protocol.

### **Partnership Statement**

AdvancED | Measured Progress and the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (ESUCC) share a common vision and mission and believe all schools can be better tomorrow than today through a continuous, systemic, learner-centric improvement process. We believe our partnership will serve students, administrators, and educators. Additionally, this partnership will support the long-term goal of providing opportunities for all members of the education community to have equal access to high quality resources and tools that ultimately support their success. AdvancED and the ESUCC agree to a partnership which supports educators to use and apply data, systematically diagnose performance, and take action to improve the education experience that ultimately drives higher achievement on behalf of the learners they serve.

Through partnership with AdvancED| Measured Progress, all members of the ESUCC have opportunities to leverage a common research-based continuous improvement system to map and embrace their unique improvement journey. As a result, this partnership supports access to a coherent, systemic, learner-centric improvement system that supports and aligns to the Nebraska Department of Education’s broader goals and strategies included in Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT) framework.

### **Goal of Partnership**

AdvancED | Measured Progress will partner with the ESUCC to support the development of a systems approach to continuous improvement and education quality. This approach will leverage a research-based framework to map and foster each educational community's unique improvement journey.

In order to accomplish this goal, AdvancED | Measured Progress and the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council agree to:

- Foster and sustain a common language and system of continuous improvement statewide.
- Promote and support a system that emphasizes comprehensive data collection and feedback to improve Nebraska's education system and enhance leadership effectiveness.
- Develop learning partnerships that sustain regular and ongoing opportunities for innovation and collaboration with schools and districts.
- Promote a shared model of differentiated supports and interventions for continuous improvement to enhance student outcomes for all learners.
- Provide professional learning opportunities for ESUCC members to support and lead continuous improvement initiatives.
- Encourage participation in third party peer review processes.

### **ESUCC Member Benefits**

AdvancED | Measured Progress wishes to support the ESUCC's efforts as it sets out to accomplish its purpose to:

- Work toward statewide coordination of services for students, teachers and school districts.
- To provide cost-efficient and equitable delivery of services across the state
- Lead and advocate for continuous improvement of public education, including instructional leadership.
- Support statewide initiatives and provision of services.
- Support the professional growth and learning needs of its members.

In light of these critical charges, AdvancED | Measured Progress will:

- Serve as a thought partner and advocate for the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council.
- Include a minimum of one representative to the Nebraska Advisory Committee which provides strategic thought leadership to advance continuous improvement throughout the state.
- Invite and offer complimentary registration for the ESUCC Executive Director or representative to attend locally sponsored AdvancED | Measured Progress professional learning events.

ESUCC will:

- Serve as a host site and promote professional learning opportunities to support improvement and learning.
- Partner with AdvancED | Measured Progress in the support of improvement and accreditation with schools served.

**Termination of the Partnership**

Either AdvancED | Measured Progress or the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council and Administrators may terminate this partnership after giving six months advance written notification which shall include reason(s) for terminating the partnership.

**Signatures**

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Mark Elgart, Ed.D. CEO/President, AdvancED | Measured Progress Date

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Dave Ludwig, Executive Director, Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council Date