

Pre-Conference Sessions

Pre-Conference Workshop – Learning Forward - Implementing Change: How to Get What You Want

****MUST REGISTER****

Presenters: Chad Dumas, Scott Blum, Rhonda Jindra, and Eileen Barks
Diamond Room 8

Target Audience: Early Childhood, Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, and Other Staff

Change happens. But how do you get the changes you WANT, and how do you get the changes to ACTUALLY happen? This session will explore change research and provide insights into successful implementation of any change effort. Participants will examine assumptions, implementation, and evidence-based practices for successful change while engaging in dialogue with other Nebraska educational leaders who are implementing change. You will also learn about a future opportunity to engage in a national project with international experts on leading change.

Pre-Conference Workshop – Technical Training: Excel

****MUST REGISTER****

Note: This training has a maximum enrollment of 15.

Presenters: Kunal Dash and Justine Yeo
Diamond Room 9

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Assessment Coordinators, Staff Developers, and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

For beginning and intermediate Microsoft Excel users, this training is designed to familiarize you with Excel features like managing data through keyboard shortcuts and filtering, analyzing data using formulas and functions, and creating rich data visualizations with PivotTables and charts. This training will contain many hands-on exercises, so you are required to bring your own laptop with a Windows operating system and the version of Microsoft Excel 2007 or later.

Pre-Conference Workshop – Boot Camp (NSSRS, CDC, and Data Reporting)

****MUST REGISTER****

Presenters: Ginny Carter, Denise Schuyler, Pam Tagart, and Sue Martin
Crystal 1, 2, & 3

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Administrators, and Other Staff

Review of the NDE Portal, Calendars, NSSRS Student and Staff Reporting, Student Unique Identifier, Consolidated Data Collection (CDC) and other items.

This 3 hour session (with breaks) will be beneficial to new Data Stewards and District Administrators and as a review for other Data Stewards and District Administrators.

Session I

Session I - AQuESTT Tenet Transitions

Presenter: Dennis McGuire
Diamond Room 3

Target Audience: Curriculum and Instruction Staff

Students go through many transitions to reach adulthood. This session will focus on why the State Board chose the transition tenet, what specific transitions are to be considered, and what programs are in place. The audience will be expected to share with each other what practices are used in their schools for such transitions as early childhood to kindergarten, elementary to middle school, middle to high school, and high school to post-secondary.

Session I - ESEA Flexibility Waiver Update

Presenters: Aprille Phillips and Matt Heusman
Diamond Room 4

Target Audience: Assessment Coordinators, Administrators, and Federal Program Staff

This session provides information about and evaluation of Nebraska's request for flexibility from No Child Left Behind. The waiver focuses on college, career and community readiness, next generation accountability, AQuESTT, and teacher/principal evaluation framework. The request was submitted to the US Department of Education on March 31, 2015.

Session I – AQuESTT Tenet Positive Partnerships, Relationships, & Student Success

Presenter: Sue Anderson
Diamond Room 5

Target Audience: Early Childhood, Special Education Staff, Staff Developers, Administrators, and Federal Program Staff

Engagement through positive partnerships and relationships is fundamental to successful schools and districts. Explore why this tenet represents a key investment schools and communities can make to enhance educational experiences and opportunities for all students. Examples of researched-based strategies and programs will be shared, and participants will be able to reflect on how their schools and districts connect to this important tenet through their continuous school improvement processes.

Session I - AQuESTT Tenet Opportunities & Access

Presenters: Brent Gaswick, Freida Lange, and Kristina Peters
Diamond Room 8

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Early Childhood, Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, and Federal Program Staff

'Real World' involvement engages and activates the curiosity that creates life-long learners. This session will provide background information on key indicators that are crucial for the development of engaged and productive students, whether they are 2 years of age, 7, 12, and 18 or older. Resources, practices and possibilities that provide educational opportunities will be exchanged, with time provided for participants to reflect on their own schools and districts.

Session I - AQuESTT Tenet College & Career Ready

Presenters: Cory Epler and Rich Katt
Diamond Room 9

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Early Childhood, Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, and Federal Program Staff

Successful school districts work to ensure that every student, upon completion of secondary education, is prepared for postsecondary educational opportunities and ready to pursue their career goals. In this session, we will dissect the phrase "college and career readiness," highlight research-based approaches that ensure college and career readiness for all students, and reflect on key indicators that signal a student is college and career ready.

Session I - Data Literacies for All Schools

Presenters: Russ Masco, Don Loseke, Melissa Engel, Marilou Jasnoch, Denise O'Brien, Annette Weise, and Dick Meyer
Diamond Room 10

Target Audience: Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, and Federal Program Staff

A joint initiative between ESUs, NDE and districts is developing the means to build and support a data literate culture in schools across the state. In a data literate culture, educators consistently engage in effective processes for gathering and analyzing various types of data. Educators have a common vocabulary that invites all to participate in meaningful conversations about their data, and how they might respond with effective planning for continuous improvement. This session invites educators to delve into the literacies' essential questions for improvement, and make the connection with Continuous Improvement. Information for training opportunities in 2015-2016 will be provided.

Session I - AQuESTT Tenet Assessment

Presenters: Valorie Foy and Jeremy Heneger
Crystal Rooms 1, 2, & 3

Target Audience: Early Childhood, Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, Federal Program, and Other Staff

Due to Federal measures of accountability, the State of the Schools Report, and the state accountability system, much focus has been placed on summative assessment. However, Nebraska educators continue to use effective assessment practices. The assessment tenet of AQuESTT calls for systematic and systemic inclusion of balanced assessments. Join us for a discussion of the ways in which assessment can be included in the continuous improvement of student learning through the AQuESTT tenet.

Session I - AQuESTT Tenet Educator Effectiveness

Presenters: Donlynn Rice and Sharon Katt
Crystal Room 4

Target Audience: Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, Federal Program, and Other Staff

The State Board of Education believes that students should be surrounded by effective educators throughout their learning experiences. This session will focus on the various components of this tenet and provide information on what schools and districts can do to develop or continue to build effective teachers and leaders who establish an on-going culture of success.

Session II

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Presenter: Dennis McGuire

Diamond Room 3

Target Audience: Curriculum and Instruction Staff

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Session III

Session III - Early Childhood to Elementary - Using the Data for Seamless Transitions

Presenters: Diane Kvasnicka and Kristine Luebbe
Diamond Room 3

Target Audience: Early childhood, P-K teachers and staff, and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

This presentation will assist staff and administration in using data and implementing practices that will smooth the transition from Pre-K to kindergarten for young children and their families.

Session III - Connecting the Data to State Aid / School Finance

Presenters: Bryce Wilson, Jen Utemark
Diamond Room 4

Target Audience: Special Education and Administrator Staff

This presentation provides an overview of how data collected in NSSRS, the Consolidated Data Collections, and Grants Management System are used in the State Aid calculation. We will talk about common mistakes and the reports available to validate your data. In addition, we will be discussing current school finance issues including current legislation and budget items.

Session III - Attendance / Participation

Presenter: Treva Haugaard
Diamond Room 5

Targeted Audience: Staff Developers, Administrators, and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

This session focuses on how Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Student Success can affect student attendance and engagement. Leaders from the GOALs Center in Omaha will share how school and community partnerships can work together to address absenteeism and at-risk behavior in order to improve student behavior and learning.

Session III - Enhancing Effectiveness Through Instructional Coaching Proposal

Presenters: Kristi Gibbs, Cecilia Wilken, Dan Boster, and Janet Foss
Diamond Room 8

Target Audience: Staff Developers and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

Continuous school improvement including increasing teacher effectiveness and student learning is an ongoing effort in Ralston Public Schools. Implementation of an instructional / peer coaching model has positively established an environment conducive to collaborative professional learning and growth. During this session you will learn about the coaching initiatives that were developed and implemented at Ralston High School and Mockingbird Elementary. You will gain a district perspective as well as hear from a principal, a teacher, and an Educational Service Unit professional learning consultant.

Session III - Rigorous College and Career Ready Standards-Math

Presenter: Deb Romanek
Diamond Room 9

Target Audience: Early Childhood, Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

Setting high expectations of learning targets for mathematics in grades K-12 can help better prepare the students to be college and career ready. These expectations are described in the current draft set of state standards. This session will provide an overview of the process for reviewing and revising the mathematics standards and identify opportunities for you to provide input into the draft that will be adopted by the State Board of Education.

Session III – NeSA Assessment: College & Career Ready Transition

Presenters: Valorie Foy, Jeremy Heneger, and John Moon
Diamond Room 10

Target Audience: Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, and Curriculum and Instruction

With the State Board approval of revised College and Career Ready English Language Arts Standards in September 2014, NeSA-Reading will transition to NeSA-English Language Arts. The timing and process of transition that have been determined thus far will be provided. Participants will also have the opportunity to give input into upcoming decisions.

Session III - Nebraska Learning Cloud and Single Sign-On

Presenters: Scott Isaacson, Dean Folkers, Jeff Carew, and Cathy Cope
Crystal Rooms 1, 2, & 3

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, and Other Staff

The opportunity to provide systems of support for school and districts in Nebraska in ways that reduce burden, reduce cost, increase access, increase security and ultimately support effective use of systems that support school districts are all at the core of building capacity in Nebraska.

The session will describe efforts underway from the Nebraska Department of Education, and Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (ESUCC) to provide system access and support, now and in the future. In addition; see some of the possibilities the systems approach may provide for schools to access in the form of analytics, electronic transcripts, and other amazing possibilities all through a federated identity management approach.

[Session III - District Data Profiles / Continuous Improvement Process \(CIP\)](#)

Presenters: Russ Masco, Max Reiner, and Kalpana Bhupathi-Raju
Crystal Room 4

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, Federal Program, and Other Staff

It's recommended that participants bring a laptop and have access to the DRS Secured link in the NDE Portal before attending this session. Please contact your district portal administrator to receive an access code.

This session will briefly introduce the CIP Profile reports on the Data Reporting System website. These are intended to provide data for school improvement plans and professional development priorities, and are also used extensively in the school accreditation process. The majority of the session will be for participants to work with these reports on their own, while NDE staff will be available for questions and feedback.

[Session III - Building Leadership Supports - Educator Preparation](#)

Presenter: Sharon Katt, Panel of Educator Preparation Program Representatives
Ruby Room 1

Target Audience: Staff Developers and Administrators

This session will provide updates and an opportunity for participant input regarding educator preparation accountability, change initiatives underway, and evolving needs related to the preparation of effective educators. Topics include: testing for certification, teacher supply, endorsement and certification changes, statewide educator preparation accountability processes, and information about collaboration efforts and innovation in Nebraska educator preparation programs.

[Session III - What is Digital Readiness?](#)

Presenter: Brent Gaswick & Kristina Peters
Ruby Room 3

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Early Childhood, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, Federal Program, and Other Staff

Join this knowledge sharing session where we address the definition of digital readiness, how to create a digital ready environment, and compare various models that drive teaching and learning to prepare students to be digitally ready.

Session III - Educator Effectiveness - Building Leadership Supports

Presenters: Jay Sears and Dan Ernst
Ruby Room 4

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Early Childhood, Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, Federal Program, and Other Staff

Dan Ernst of Nebraska Council of School Administrators (NCSA) and Jay Sears of Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) will facilitate a discussion on how these professional organizations provide support to their members and the efforts of the Nebraska Department of Education in building Educator Effectiveness. Discussion will focus on the supports districts can expect from NCSA and NSEA related to the Nebraska Teacher and Principal Performance Framework. Bring your questions, suggestions, and ideas about Educator Effectiveness.

Session III – Suicide Prevention

Presenter: Jolene Palmer
Ruby Room 5

Target Audiences: Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, and Other Staff

During the 2014 Nebraska Legislative Session, LB 923 was passed which now mandates all essential school personnel be provided at least one hour of suicide prevention training each school year. The intent of the law is to equip school personnel with information that could save the life of a student; recognizing signs and symptoms of suicidal behaviors and methods of responding to students in crisis. Positive relationships between staff and students create front-line suicide prevention. A 5-year plan of approved training has been created to assist schools in meeting the requirement. This session will outline the plan and its details.

Session IV

Session IV – Transitions: Elementary to Middle School

Presenter: Dr. Rony Ortega and Beth Holland
Diamond Room 3

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

This presentation will focus on successful transition practices for students entering the middle school. The presenters will highlight how looping and teaming practices in one of the largest 5-8 grades middle schools in the state have been used to create long-term relationships between teachers, students, and parents as well as build intimate relationships with the curriculum. Additionally, the presenters will share how a summer camp for all incoming students has also contributed to the academic success of this top performing and distinguished middle school in the Omaha Public Schools.

Session IV – RDA / MTSS: Improving Student Achievement

Presenters: Rose Dymacek, Kelly Wojcik, Tanya Ihlo, and Andrea Boden
Diamond Room 4

Target Audience: Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, and Federal Program Staff

The overall goal of Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS) is to build a district/school-wide infrastructure to provide the most effective reading instruction and supports for all students. MTSS/Response to Intervention (RtI) is aligned with Nebraska's school improvement process and with the AQuESTT tenets for Educator Effectiveness and student success. Data based instruction and differentiated coaching and training in the MTSS/RtI framework offer support for teachers to reach high levels of implementation of evidence-based literacy programs and practices. MTSS/RtI has been selected as the strategy for the State Identified Measurable Result for Results Driven Accountability, a federal initiative focused on improving results for students with disabilities.

Session IV - Individualized Learning Plans to Develop Partnerships, Relationships, and Engagement

Presenter: Donna Hoffman
Diamond Room 5

Target Audience: Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, and Other Staff

Individual Learning Plans (ILP) are considered both a process and a learning tool. As a process, when students, parents and the school plan together students receive similar communication/support from both home and

school. As a learning tool, ILPs outline actual coursework and activities for successful transitions through high school graduation and postsecondary education appropriate to career goals.

Outcomes associated with ILP's:

- Improved communication and increased family involvement.
- Improved student motivation and engagement.
- Improved student understanding of college and career options and long-term planning.
- Increased student awareness of strengths and weaknesses.
- Improved coursework selections relevant to career goals.

This session will provide an overview of considerations and promising practices of implementing ILPs.

Session IV - Teacher/Principal Performance Framework

Presenters: Donlynn Rice and Representatives of Pilot Sites
Diamond Room 8

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Early Childhood, Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, Federal Program, and Other Staff

Seventeen pilot schools from across Nebraska have been using the Nebraska Teacher and Principal Performance Framework for the past two years to increase educator effectiveness. This session will take an in-depth look at the components of new evaluation models for teachers and principals based on the Frameworks. Local district representatives will share their experiences in using the models and the effects made on teaching and learning in their respective districts.

Session IV - Implementation of the Revised ELA Standards

Presenter: Tricia Parker
Diamond Room 9

Targeted Audience: Early Childhood, Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

Growing and developing college and career-ready graduates is not possible without a foundation of strong literacy skills. Nebraska's newly-revised English Language Arts Standards (ELA) focus on the development of students into literate, skilled, and responsible adults who are both effective communicators and savvy media consumers.

This session will focus on the critical improvements made to the Nebraska ELA standards. Included will be information about the revision process, significant changes, and the support materials that will accompany the new standards.

Session IV - NeSA Assessment: College and Career Ready Transition

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Session IV - BlendEd & the Instructional Improvement System

Presenters: Craig Hicks and Beth Kabes
Ruby Room 1

Target Audience: Early Childhood, Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

The statewide BlendEd initiative is focused on deploying systems to support a variety of blended learning models. These systems will also allow teachers to personalize learning for all students. This session will explore the blended learning systems and how they connect to the six tenets of the AQuEST framework.

Session IV - Using Innovation Configuration in Classrooms

Presenters: Carol Rempp and Catherine Johnson
Ruby Room 3

Target Audience: Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, Federal Program, and Other Staff

Recognizing that equitable classroom practices that account for much of the effect teachers have on student success, the North Central Comprehensive Center, Nebraska Department of Education, and Midwest Equity Assistance Center collaborated to create an Innovation Configuration (IC) Map to promote the implementation of culturally responsive teaching strategies. Entitled "IC for Equitable Classroom Practices," the tool details best practice in: demonstrating knowledge of students, creating an environment of respect and rapport, establishing a culture of learning, and engaging students in learning. This IC Map is an effective tool for teachers to reflect on current practices and monitor implementation of effective practices.

Session IV – Educator Effectiveness and the Role of Each Stakeholder

Presenter: David M. Ludwig
Ruby Room 4

Target Audience: Administrators

Participants will participate in discussion regarding a statewide continuous improvement model specific to effective and efficient service delivery within the state. Threaded within the continuous improvement model will be connections to the Educator Effectiveness tenet of AQuESTT and the general role of each stakeholder within the statewide plan.

Session V – Ready, Not Remedy!

Presenters: Cory Epler and Kristina Peters
Ruby Room 5

Target Audience: Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, and Other Staff

Discover emerging and existing online resources that can be used to help your students be college and career ready. This session will highlight strategies NDE is using to enhance the online teaching and learning resources provided by the department. Participants will have the opportunity to dialogue about resource needs and how NDE can best help.

Session IV – ADVISER Dashboard and Data Use

Presenters: Matt Hastings, Dean Folkers, and Atwell Mukusha
Ruby Room 6

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Early Childhood, Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, Federal Program, and Other Staff

In this session, we will provide an overview of current and future statewide efforts related to Advanced Data Views Improving Student Educational Response (ADVISED) - Nebraska's new data dashboard. As part of the presentation, we will include a live demonstration of the newly designed product where we aim to review core functionality, the Nebraska Cloud single sign-on solution, as well as many other features related to ADVISED.

Session V

Session V – Middle School to High School: Systematic Transitions

Presenters: Dr. Josh Fields and John Schwartz

Diamond Room 3

Target Audience: Early Childhood, Assessment Coordinators, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, and Federal Program Staff

Through district strategic and site based planning Seward Public Schools has developed a system for transitioning students successfully into the elementary, middle, and high school. These transitions have served as a spring board for continuous learning and eased the minds of students and parents. We will share how we have successfully implemented a middle school to high school transition. Through our action steps we involve parents and students in specific experiences such as; course selection, academic support, proactive and reactive support systems, emotional and social acculturation, and five-year planning.

Session V - Expanded Learning Opportunities: What Are They? Why Are They Important?

Presenters: Mary Ann Losh, Marcia Fritz, Jan Handa, Kim Larson, and Dale Henderson

Diamond Room 4

Target Audience: Administrators and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

Quality expanded learning opportunities (ELO's) that are implemented afterschool and during the summer, can help students succeed in school and provide extra support in a variety of areas. Attend this session to explore national, state, and local data which shows that quality ELO programs positively impact student achievement and social development. Dale Henderson, Principal, and Marcia Fritz, Project Director, from Cozad Elementary School, will share how they utilize data through a continuous improvement process to provide a quality ELO program.

Session V - Teacher/Principal Performance Framework

Presenters: Donlynn Rice and Representatives of Pilot Sites

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Session V - Nebraska Career Education: Growing Jobs, Industries, and Talent

Presenters: Cory Epler and Rich Katt
Diamond Room 9

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Staff Developers, Administrators, and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

Nebraska schools are well situated for meeting the challenge of preparing students for a competitive job market through Career Education. Nebraska Career Education (NCE) engages students and prepares them for college and career by connecting core academics with relevant content and experiences. Additionally, NCE bridges the gap between schools and employers in order to develop a skilled workforce that will sustain and grow Nebraska's economy. In this session, we will showcase the work of NCE, highlight the Career Education Course Standards, and share strategies that schools can use to help their students master the Nebraska Career Readiness Standards.

Session V - Using Data on ALL Levels for Continuous Improvement

Presenters: Kevin Gross and Angie Wright
Diamond Room 10

Targeted Audience: Teachers, Assessment Coordinators, and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

Elkhorn Public Schools does not have a data warehouse, however they have created a systematic approach to data collection and dissemination at the district, school, classroom, and student level. This session will highlight how NeSA, MAP, and District Common Assessment data are used to inform instruction and intervention, set SMART Goals, guide departments, make placement decisions and much more. Come see how EPS uses data in their continuous improvement process.

Session V - BlendEd & the Instructional Improvement System

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Session V - Positive Partnerships: The Implications of Sudden Loss – A Needed Conversation

Presenter: Jennifer Fry and Dr. Donald P. Belau
Ruby Room 3

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Early Childhood, Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, Federal Program, and Other Staff

Engagement through positive partnerships and relationships is fundamental to successful schools and districts. Sudden death by suicide leaves in its wake emotions that tag memories, and at times thoughts, that if not processed can have a major impact upon the teenager's development into adulthood. Explore why postvention support represents a key investment to schools and communities to enhance educational experiences and opportunities for all students. Examples of researched-based strategies and programs will be shared, and participants will be able to reflect on how their schools and districts can connect through continuous support.

Session V - Using MAP Data to Maximize Learning: An ESU & NWEA Collaborative Project Proposal

Presenter: Suzanne Whisler and Denise O'Brien
Ruby Room 4

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

ESU staff developers from across the state have worked with NWEA MAP trainers to become certified in delivering workshops to enhance educators' abilities in utilizing MAP data to maximize learning for all students. Learn how NWEA MAP workshops: Applying Reports, Informing Instruction, and Focusing on Growth can be delivered by ESU staff to meet the unique needs of your district.

Session V – Special Education: Student Engagement

Presenter: Dr. Reece Peterson
Ruby Room 5

Target Audience: Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, and Other Staff

Reducing use of exclusionary discipline consequences (suspension and expulsion), and reducing student dropouts are state as well as national goals! This session suggests resources for over 50 strategies which schools can use as part of a school improvement planning process to improve student behavior and increase rates of graduation. Briefs describe each intervention strategy, identify how the strategy fits a three tiered model of intervention, and describe the evidence regarding its effectiveness. Other materials assist educators to gather and use data for data-based problem solving and decision making. All materials are available free on the project website at: <http://k12engagement.unl.edu>.

Session V - Data, Privacy, Security, & Transparency

Presenters: Dean Folkers, Matt Hastings
Ruby Room 6

Targeted Audience: Data Stewards, Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, and Other Staff

The increasing collection of all kinds of data provides unique challenges and opportunities for education. The effective use to impact teaching and learning, school improvement, and other analytics also requires attention to the need for securing the data, ensuring the privacy of students, and being transparent about the approaches used with parents and others in the broader community.

The session provides keys for consideration, a glimpse into some of the tools and resources available, and reminders about the important role of school districts to strike the balance of effective data use while ensuring data privacy.

Session VI

Session VI – Transitions: High School to Post High School - Making the Connections to Successful Careers and Young Adult Living

Presenters: Rita Hammitt, Amy Slama, Amy Mazankowski, Lindy Foley, and Mark Schultz
Diamond Room 3

Target Audience: Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, and Federal Program Staff

Transition planning is critical for All students. This session discussion will highlight: Post School Outcome data collections and trends (State and District); Examples of Evidence-Based In -School Predictors of Post-School Success. Although the focus of discussion will be to students with disabilities, the promising practices are applicable to students without disabilities.

Session VI - Family Engagement Supports Student Success

Presenters: Julie Schnitzler , Teresita Westover , Kim Larson, Diane Stuehmer, and Karen Stevens
Diamond Room 4

Target Audience: Early Childhood, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, Federal Program, and Other Staff

Come to this session to learn more about national research that indicates family engagement promotes student success. Joanne Garrison, Coordinator of the Grand Island Public Schools Welcome Center and Julie Schnitzler, principal at Howard Elementary, Grand Island Public Schools will share data they gather and strategies they use to increase engagement. Session participants will have an opportunity to discuss how to engage parents in their children's learning as well as addressing some of the challenges. Web-based and print resources will be shared.

Session VI - Step Up To Quality: A New Opportunity for Prekindergarten Programs and Schools

Presenters: Eleanor Shirley and Staff
Diamond Room 5

Target Audiences: Early Childhood, Special Education, Administrators, and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

This session will outline the new Step Up to Quality Program and the exciting opportunities it holds for school district Prekindergarten programs and their community child care partners.

Session VI - Comprehensive Learning Opportunities

Presenter: Mary Duffy
Diamond Room 8

Target Audience: Staff Developers, Curriculum and Instruction, and Other Staff

In the 21st century, learning opportunities are abundantly available through technology. The question arises as to what opportunities will meet the needs of the students. Educators must become wise consumers when making those selections that will benefit their students and raise student achievement.

This session will discuss some of the criteria to use when making those decisions.

Session VI - Nebraska Career Education: Growing Jobs, Industries, and Talent

Presenters: Cory Epler and Rich Katt
Diamond Room 9

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Staff Developers, Administrators, and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

Nebraska schools are well situated for meeting the challenge of preparing students for a competitive job market through Career Education. Nebraska Career Education (NCE) engages students and prepares them for college and career by connecting core academics with relevant content and experiences. Additionally, NCE bridges the gap between schools and employers in order to develop a skilled workforce that will sustain and grow Nebraska's economy. In this session, we will showcase the work of NCE, highlight the Career Education Course Standards, and share strategies that schools can use to help their students master the Nebraska Career Readiness Standards.

Session V – District, School, and Classroom Based Assessment Using Check4Learning (C4L)

Presenter: Jeremy Heneger
Diamond Room 10

Targeted Audience: Assessment Coordinators, Staff Developers, Administrators, and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

The Check4Learning system offers districts a variety of ways to help meet the assessment needs of their students. Over 190 districts currently use the system and this number continues to grow. Presenters will provide a brief overview of the system and share some examples of district practices.

Session VI – ADVISER Dashboard and Data Use

Presenters: Matt Hastings, Dean Folkers, and Atwell Mukusha
Crystal Rooms 1, 2, & 3

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Early Childhood, Assessment Coordinators, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, Federal Program, and Other Staff

In this session, we will provide an overview of current and future statewide efforts related to ADVISER - Nebraska's new data dashboard. As part of the presentation, we will include a live demonstration of the newly designed product where we aim to review core functionality, the Nebraska Cloud single sign-on solution, as well as many other features related to ADVISER.

Session VI - Early Childhood Education Requirements

Presenters: Melody Hobson and Amy Bunnell
Crystal Room 4

Target Audience: Early Childhood, Special Education, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, and Federal Program Staff

Learn the basics of operating programs for young children. Information about Part C regulations and Results Matter Child, Program quality, and Family Outcomes system will be shared as well as basic information about Rule 11: Regulations for Early Childhood Education Programs.

Session VI - Growing Teacher Leaders to Increase Educator Effectiveness

Presenter: Dr. Heather Phipps and Dr. Kim Saum-Mills
Ruby Room 1

Target Audience: Staff Developers and Administrators

In order to achieve the AQuESTT tenant of Educator Effectiveness, the Millard Public Schools (MPS) has a targeted approach using professional development to grow teacher leaders. Our session will begin with a brief overview of the Millard Public Schools Induction Program which includes 3 years of support: mentorship, peer coaching, and extended professional experiences. We will then focus on the additional professional development we provide using our Millard Instructional Model and Leadership Definition and Framework to grow teacher leaders. Participants will be given copies of the Millard Instructional Model and the MPS Leadership Framework.

Session VI - Using MAP Data to Maximize Learning: An ESU & NWEA Collaborative Project Proposal

Presenter: Suzanne Whisler and Denise O'Brien
Ruby Room 3

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Assessment Coordinator, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

ESU staff developers from across the state have worked with NWEA MAP trainers to become certified in delivering workshops to enhance educators' abilities in utilizing MAP data to maximize learning for all students. Learn how NWEA MAP workshops; Applying Reports, Informing Instruction, and Focusing on Growth can be delivered by ESU staff to meet the unique needs of your district.

[Session VI - Session VI - Elementary and Secondary Education Act \(ESEA\) Educator Equity Plan](#)

Presenter: Pat Madsen and Sharon Katt
Ruby Room 4

Target Audience: Early Childhood, Assessment Coordinator, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, Federal Program, and Other Staff

Access to effective educators to guide students in the learning process is a critical component for addressing the challenge that ALL students have an equal opportunity to succeed. NDE is required to submit a revised ESEA Educational Equity Plan to the United States Department of Education by June 1, 2015. This interactive session will provide participants an opportunity to provide input to this plan regarding strategies and supports to assure all students, including high minority and high poverty students, have equal access to effective educators. The Equity Plan is being developed to align with AQuESTT, in particular the Educator Effectiveness tenant.

[Session VI - Fireside Chat: Blended Learning](#)

Presenter: Kristina Peters
Ruby Room 5

Target Audience: Data Stewards, Early Childhood, Special Education, Staff Developers, Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction, Federal Program, and Other Staff

Join this fireside chat to discuss blended learning. Our conversation will look at what it is, how the six models work, and how we can ensure that Nebraska students have blended learning opportunities.

[Session VI - The Use of Surveys and Perceptual Data](#)

Presenters: Kunal Dash, Annette Weise, and Russ Masco
Ruby Room 6

Targeted Audience: Staff Developers, Administrators, and Curriculum and Instruction Staff

Nebraska schools are embracing the use of perceptual/survey data more than ever. This session will highlight opportunities and tools available to districts in the use of survey data.

The purpose of the presentation will touch on topics relevant to web surveys including framing various questions, working on design, do's and don'ts and downloading and doing simple analyses of data.

There will be discussion around reading the results and reports associated with the perceptual surveys being utilized by Nebraska districts. Specific assistance will be offered in analyzing the more difficult to organize responses to open-ended questions.

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