**NOTE: THIS SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE MAY BE ALTERED AS APPROPRIATE.**

**ALL AQuESTT RESULTS – INCLUDING NEWS RELEASES BASED ON THIS SAMPLE – ARE EMBARGOED UNTIL FRIDAY, DEC. 4, NOON**

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| **ADD SCHOOL DISTRICT LOGO** |

**NEWS RELEASE**

**Dec. 4, 2015**

**For more information, contact (DISTRICT NAME, SPOKESPERSON NAME) at (PHONE NUMBER) or (EMAIL ADDRESS)**

**(DISTRICT NAME)CLASSIFIED AS (EXCELLENT, GREAT OR GOOD)**

**UNDER AQuESTT, A NEW STATE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**

***(NUMBER) (DISTRICT OR CITY NAME) schools classified (EXCELLENT or GREAT),***

***(NUMBER) classified (GREAT or GOOD).***

The first-ever results of Nebraska’s new accountability system were released today in Lincoln, showing that (DISTRICT NAME) was classified among the (EXCELLENT/GREAT/GOOD) school districts statewide and that (NUMBER) (DISTRICT or CITY NAME) schools were classified (EXCELLENT/GREAT/GOOD/NEEDS IMPROVEMENT).

Nebraska Education Commissioner Matt Blomstedt released the results of the new accountability system that was developed by the State Board of Education and the Nebraska Department of Education to recognize and support schools and districts.

(QUOTE FROM DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT), said (SUPERINTENDENT NAME AND TITLE).

(OPTIONAL, QUOTE FROM LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT), said (BOARD PRESIDENT’S NAME AND TITLE).

The new state system — *Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow* — focuses first on classifying schools and districts on state test scores, graduation rates, student participation rates as well as year-to-year improvement and growth.

AQuESTT, however, goes further than past state and federal systems, establishing a broader, better and more supportive accountability system. Under AQuESTT, district and school initiatives that support student learning, the school environment and educators are recognized and rewarded.

(DISTRICT NAME) classification grew, overall, from (GREAT, GOOD, NEEDS IMPROVEMENT) to (EXCELLENT/GREAT) for certain initiatives.

AQuESTT’s classifications recognized schools and districts that 1) supported student success through positive school partnerships and relationships 2) helped students successfully transition between grades, schools, programs 3) provided student access to comprehensive instructional opportunities 4) helped students prepare for college and their careers 5) used multiple assessments to measure student learning, and/or 6) supported educator effectiveness.

“While we are pleased with the classification of the (DISTRICT NAME), we have work to do to build excellence district wide,” said (SUPERINTENDENT’S LAST NAME).  “Some of our schools were classified as (GOOD/NEEDS IMPROVEMENT). As a district, we will continue to build on our successes while developing plans to focus on those schools.”

(MORE FULLY EXPLAIN FUTURE PLANS), said (SUPERINTENDENT’S LAST NAME).

AQuESTT encourages schools to focus on every student every day and to build a system for continuous school improvement that supports students, educators and the school learning environment.

For statewide AQuESTT results, visit [www.aquestt.com](http://www.aquestt.com/) or <http://www.education.ne.gov/>. To learn more about (DISTRICT NAME), go to (WWW).