



# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the 2017-2018 Evidence-Based Analysis (EBA)

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**Question**

1. What is AQuESTT?

**Answer**

AQuESTT stands for Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow. It is Nebraska's next-generation accountability system, and aims to meet and exceed statutory requirements for accountability (R.S.S 79-760.06 and 79-760.07) by considering the broader educational experiences and success of students.

**Question**

2. What is the EBA?

**Answer**

EBA stands for Evidence-Based Analysis, and is designed to provide information in support of AQuESTT classification processes which will inform continuous improvement efforts. Question items in the EBA are grouped into the six tenets of AQuESTT: Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Success; Transitions; Educational Opportunities and Access; College, Career, and Civic Ready; Assessment; and Educator Effectiveness. There are two versions of the EBA: a *district* version and a *school* version.

**Question**

3. Is the EBA required?

**Answer**

Yes. All public school systems are required to complete the AQuESTT Evidence-Based Analysis (EBA) as part of the Annual Statistical Summary as directed by the Commissioner pursuant to Section 79-528(2).

**Question**

4. Who should complete the EBA?

**Answer**

The Nebraska Department of Education recommends that the district EBA be completed by the superintendent on behalf of the entire district, while the school EBA be completed by the school principal on behalf of the entire school. It is also recommended that you review and complete the EBA as a team with your staff before it is submitted.

**Question**

5. How can I access and submit the EBA?

**Answer**

You will need two key things: 1) an NDE Portal account, and 2) activation code(s) from your district administrator to add the "AQuESTT-EBA" collection. Similar to the 2016-2017 school year, unique links to the EBA will only be accessible through the NDE Portal in this 2017-2018 school year. Please note that these EBA links are unique to the district or school, and are one-time use only. The EBA collection can be found under the "Data Collections" tab in your NDE Portal account. Similar to other collections on the Portal, you will need an activation code to add the EBA collection so that it becomes available to you. Once made available, simply click on the EBA collection to access your unique EBA links.

**Question**

6. What should I know about activation codes?

**Answer**

At the NDE Portal, you will need an activation code to add the “AQUESTT-EBA” collection so that it becomes available to you. The activation codes for the EBA collection function in the same way as the activation codes for other collections in the NDE Portal. The district administrator, who is most times the district superintendent, will have to distribute the activation codes for the EBA collection. These codes are distributed to superintendents and principals (or other appropriate school personnel) for submission of the district EBA and the school EBA, respectively. Since only one EBA can be submitted per district and school, a single activation code can only be used by a single NDE Portal user at any point in time. Please also note that when an activation code for a *district* is added, all school EBAs for the schools within the district will be automatically accessible through the collection. Thus, separate activation codes for the *schools* need not be added.

**Question**

7. What are the key dates for completing the EBA?

**Answer**

For the 2017-2018 school year, the important dates for completing both versions of the EBA are as follows:

December 4, 2017	: Advance notice about the EBA
January 8, 2018	: Availability of the EBA on the NDE Portal
June 30, 2018	: Last day to submit the EBA

**Question**

8. How long will it take to complete the EBA?

**Answer**

The EBA may take as little as one week to as long as three months to complete. Please remember that the EBA is not a survey, but is instead a data collection instrument for informing accountability and continuous improvement efforts. It will require careful thought, analysis, discussion, and inspection from your district or school. Please plan ahead and allow yourself, and your designated school staff, ample time to review and submit the EBA by June 30, 2018.

**Question**

9. How are the district EBA and the school EBA different?

**Answer**

Almost all aspects of the EBA are similar across both versions, with two exceptions: 1) Question items in the district EBA are directed to the *district* as a whole, while question items in the school EBA are only directed to the *school* as a whole; and 2) A few question items differ across both versions, thus ensuring that question items in the district EBA are relevant at the district-level, and question items in the school EBA are relevant at the school-level.

**Question**

10. Will the EBA this school year be different from that in the last school year?

**Answer**

There are three major changes to the EBA this school year with regards to:

1. Tenet Name Change

2. Questionnaire Design
3. Help Documentation

Please review the [Technical Assistance Guide](#), also found on the first page of the EBA, for a detailed explanation of these changes.

### **Question**

11. How many EBAs will I have to complete?

### **Answer**

The number of EBAs you will have to complete depends on your role within your district and/or school. If you are either a superintendent or a school principal, you will have to submit one EBA. However, if you hold more than one role (e.g., superintendent and principal, or principal of multiple schools), you will have to submit more than one EBA. The unique links to the EBA that are accessible for you at the NDE Portal take into account your role(s) as per NDE records. Should you find an error here (e.g., incorrect district/school name, additional links, missing links), please notify us at [nde.aquestt@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.aquestt@nebraska.gov).

### **Question**

12. Why do I have more school EBAs to complete than I have actual school buildings?

### **Answer**

The definition of “school” in the EBA may differ from the definition of “school building” that you are accustomed to. For the EBA, NDE has defined a *school* as the combination of school building and school type (i.e., Elementary, Middle, or High). The school type is based on the grade levels that are present in the school building. Thus, a single school building may have two or three *schools*, resulting in two or three school EBAs to complete. Responses to the school EBA should be reflective of the *school*, as defined here, as a whole.

### **Question**

13. What is the EBA rubric?

### **Answer**

The EBA rubric is a newly developed resource to help you identify which response option best describes the policies, practices, and procedures in your school or district, in relation to the six AQUESTT tenets. The rubric document for each of the tenets will be available for download as you begin each tenet section in the EBA. Please consult the [Technical Assistance Guide](#) for clear instructions on how to use the EBA rubric. The master document containing the rubric for all six tenets can also be found at the AQUESTT Resources webpage at <http://aquestt.com/resources/>.

### **Question**

14. What does the response scale in the EBA mean?

### **Answer**

The 5-point response scale in the EBA is labeled as “Level 0” to “Level 4”. This scale is designed to measure the *extent* or *breadth* of implementation (of specific policies, practices, and procedures). This measure includes the consistency of implementation, quality of processes or documentation, coverage of students, staff, or classes, and alignment with state education models. It is imperative that you consult the rubric as you select the most appropriate response.

**Question**

15. Do I have to assemble or submit evidence to support my responses to the EBA?

**Answer**

You are not required to assemble or submit evidence to support your responses to the EBA. However, NDE reserves the right to request evidence for your selections. It might also be useful to have documentation available for sharing during accreditation or other school visits by NDE teams.

**Question**

16. How can I share our model(s) of best practice?

**Answer**

If you indicated that your school or district has an exemplary model of best practice you would be willing to share, there will be a follow-up question for you to upload resources showcasing your model of best practice. Please note that you cannot skip this follow-up question, and must have resources available if you check the box indicating a model of best practice.

**Question**

17. How can I view previous EBA responses submitted for my school and/or district?

**Answer**

Please follow these instructions to access your EBA responses submitted during the last school year in 2016-2017: <http://aquestt.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/PortalInstructionsFINAL.pdf>. Note that you will need to have the “Data Reporting System (DRS) Secured Site” collection available to you on the NDE Portal in order to access your past EBA responses. Upon adding this collection with an activation code, it may take up to 1 hour until it shows up in your list of available collections.

**Question**

18. What happens upon submission of the EBA?

**Answer**

Upon completion of the EBA, you will have the opportunity to download a PDF copy of your EBA responses. You are highly encouraged to do so for future reference. A thank you/confirmation email will also be sent to the superintendent or school principal who is listed on NDE records.

**Question**

19. How can I obtain more information about AQUESTT and the EBA?

**Answer**

Please first look through the materials posted at the AQUESTT Resources webpage at <http://aquestt.com/resources/>. Should you still have specific questions that you cannot find answers to, please direct an email to [nde.aquestt@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.aquestt@nebraska.gov).

**Question**

20. How can I share specific comments surrounding the process of completing the EBA?

**Answer**

Comments regarding how the EBA submission process can be improved are greatly appreciated and can be sent to [nde.aquestt@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.aquestt@nebraska.gov). Other specific comments about the EBA are also welcome.



**Question**

21. How can I obtain more information about Nebraska's school accreditation and accountability systems?

**Answer**

Please contact the Accreditation team here at the Nebraska Department of Education by directing an email to [nde.accreditationteam@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.accreditationteam@nebraska.gov).