

ACCOUNTABILITY KEY MESSAGES.



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ACCOUNTABILITY IN NEBRASKA

Why does accountability matter?

- Every element of our education system, including our expectations for students, how we understand if students are meeting those expectations, and how we are working with and supporting teachers and leaders, work toward the goal of ensuring all students are prepared for success after high school. Accountability is one element of that system.
- Accountability systems are intended to help us focus on what matters most, give us a better understanding of what is working well, and determine where we need to make improvements so we can help all students succeed.
- Nebraska's accountability system sets goals for achievement and growth for all schools to reach, across race, income, and zip code. The system reveals gaps in achievement so that we may work toward equity for all students in the state.
- Just as state standards and assessments set expectations for what students should know and be able to do, **state accountability systems set expectations for school performance.**
- Accountability ratings make it possible to compare a school or district to others in the state.



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What do accountability determinations mean for a school?

- Accountability determinations are a method to convey a broad picture of school performance over time, incorporating outcomes for all students. They are designed to highlight each school's strengths and areas where they can improve.
- Schools that are identified for support at the state or federal level did not achieve one or more of the expectations set in the accountability system. These schools will receive additional support from the state and may be eligible for federal funds to help them improve.
- Parents and community members of schools that are identified will have the opportunity to participate in the development of an improvement plan.
- Nebraska's accountability determinations also recognize high-performing and quickly-improving schools and the lessons they have learned will be shared across the state to inform continuous improvement for all schools.

Nebraska's Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT) provides a framework for school support and improvement. To learn more about AQuESTT, visit [aquestt.com](http://www.aquestt.com).

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