

NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Niobrara is committed to Every Student, Every Day, SUCCESS!

When states and districts agree to accept federal funds, there are strings attached. Attached to the Title I Funds under NCLB is the stipulation to have statewide assessments and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) decisions for every public school in the state. The proficiency goal for the 2014-2015 school year for reading and mathematics was set at 100%. Under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act every student regardless of disability, English language proficiency, or other life-impacting circumstance—must be proficient in reading and math. Because of this unrealistic goal, a number of schools will be labeled as *In Need of Improvement*.

With the newly authorized Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) is preparing for the state and local control to become more active in the achievement goals for students. The passage of ESSA has relieved states of the unrealistic and harsh consequences of the old NCLB law. The goal for Nebraska is to build a quality accountability system that is meaningful to Nebraska and Nebraska schools. The AQuESTT system focuses on six tenets which are part of two broader principles. Those principles are *Student Success and Access* and *Teaching and Learning*.

Recently, the Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT) results have been released for the 2014-2015 school year. Niobrara Public Schools as a district was ranked into the *In Need of Improvement*. Niobrara Elementary School was also ranked as *In Need of Improvement* and Niobrara High School was ranked as *Great*. This was based solely on the test scores of the NeSA assessment taken during the spring. With the new AQuESTT system there is an opportunity for schools to have their ranking system increased or decreased according to their self-assessment results. Niobrara Public School results have been based primarily on the one time test given in the spring.

Parents, patrons and caregivers, you are encouraged to look at your own child's individual growth and learning along with the evidence provided by Niobrara Public Schools. Use this information and compare it to your child's progress. Niobrara Public Schools also asks that you work with the teachers to ensure that your child is challenged, supported, learning and thriving in school. At Niobrara Public Schools we are committed to continuous improvement. We also realize that tests are an important part of teaching and learning, but we also understand that basing student's achievement on a single assessment test does not reflect everything that is important for our children's learning journey.

Congratulations 2015 Fall NSAA Winners!

Football - Nate Sandoz

Volleyball - Ashley Guenther

One Act - Brittany Eisenhauer
and Larissa McCardle

January Birthdays

Payten Nielsen - 4
John Moniz-Thomas - 9
Courtney Thomas - 12
Alan Henry - 13
Johnathan Freiburghouse - 14
Cooper Holz - 18
Masi LaPointe - 19
Rhianna Bickerstaff - 21
Addison Peed - 23
Joseph Moose, Tianna White - 25
Robert Reyes, Emil Brandt - 26
Gwen Bonham - 27
Dillan Hrbek - 28
Landon Rouse - 29
Gabriela Swalley, Brady Pike - 30
William Ferris - 31

