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Patrick O'Donnell  
 Clerk of the Legislature

Senator Kate Sullivan  
 Chair, Education Committee

The 2012-13 State of the Schools Report provides information and data about Nebraska public schools and student performance. Graduation rates, graduation rankings, dropout data and school district ACT scores for individual high schools were added to this report on November 15, 2013. The full State of the Schools Report is available on-line at: <http://reportcard.education.ne.gov/>.

The report highlights the performance of students by district and school building in reading, mathematics, writing and science.

This chart displays statewide performance results for groups of students:

**Percent Proficient**

<b>Student Groups</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Science</b>
All students	79%	73%	69%	70%
Hispanic	66%	59%	60%	47%
American Indian/Alaska Native	50%	43%	48%	41%
Asian	78%	78%	77%	65%
Black or African American	59%	45%	53%	37%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	78%	69%	75%	56%
White	84%	80%	73%	79%
Two or More Races	78%	70%	70%	65%
Students eligible for free and reduced lunch	68%	61%	59%	53%
Special Education Students	53%	48%	39%	40%
English Language Learners	60%	53%	57%	26%

Under the Nebraska Performance Accountability System (NePAS), school districts are ranked by: Status, Improvement, Growth and Graduation Rates. The rankings are based on district NeSA test scores. Status ranks districts by average scale scores in reading, mathematics, writing and science; Improvement ranks districts by the differences in the average reading and math scale scores of different students in the same grade; and, Growth ranks districts by the differences in average reading and mathematics scale scores of the same students this year to last year. Rankings based on graduation rates will be released in November.

The following chart shows the number of school districts demonstrating improvement and growth based on two years of data. Overall, most districts demonstrated improvement as well as positive growth as reflected in the counts below. However, some districts had negative growth. Zero (0) is comparable to one year of learning for a student.

<b>Rankings</b>	<b>READING</b>	<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	<b>SCIENCE</b>
<b>IMPROVEMENT</b>	↑ 205 of 248 districts	↑ 169 of 248 districts	↑ 172 of 248 districts
<b>GROWTH</b>	↑ 204 of 248 districts	↑ 141 of 248 districts	

Note: Science tests were given for the first time in 2012-13.

The state's overarching goal for students is that they will be college and career ready in when they graduate from high school in order to have successful experiences in work, military and/or college.

The state's new accountability system is intended to help inform policy makers, the public and school officials about school district performance. This report is also intended to inform parents, community leaders and policymakers about our education system and to provide data needed for sound decision-making by education policymakers.

As you review this on-line report, school districts are ranked on a number of factors. Comprehensive information and multiple measures, including rankings, about our schools is critical to sound decision making. We discourage using any one ranking to make a judgment about any district just as we discourage using one test score to make a judgment about any one student. As always, your school district officials can best explain their data and what it means.

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Please take time to study the report to learn how the schools and students in your community are performing and talk to your local school officials about the results and the needs of students. We encourage parents to talk to their child's teacher, who is most knowledgeable about the performance of individual students.

Thank you,



Scott Swisher  
Deputy Commissioner of Education

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