

# Nebraska Curriculum Matrix Summary

## Nebraska Statewide Assessment

Nebraska's School-based Teacher-led Assessment and Reporting System (STARS) is a unique, state-developed assessment system for reporting student progress and improved instruction in meeting the requirements of the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* and in determining Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Nebraska educators use a mix of locally-designed assessments in combination with national tests and statewide writing assessments to measure the performance of students.

Local districts have a high degree of autonomy in assessment development and practices, but local assessment must follow guidelines set by the Nebraska Department of Education and all assessments must meet the Six Quality Assessment Criteria developed for the Nebraska Department of Education. The state requires that local test results for only those tested standards designated as STAR (Standards That Are Reported) be reported for purposes of AYP determinations.

According to the Nebraska Department of Education, "In reading and mathematics, only Grades 4, 8, and 11 are assessed and reported by standard. Grades 3, 5, 6 and 7 report progress in reading and mathematics and are monitored through Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Districts may choose to assess science and social studies in Grades 4 and 5." (*STARS, School-based Teacher-led Assessment and Reporting System, A Summary. September, 2004. p.4*).

Information concerning Nebraska Statewide Assessment may be obtained at [www.ned.state.ne.us/stars/index.html](http://www.ned.state.ne.us/stars/index.html).

## Reading/Writing

The K-12 English language arts curricula are locally designed and are based on the Nebraska Department of Education's approved standards for reading and writing. The skills provide the necessary skills all students need to be successful readers, writers, speakers, and listeners.

## Priority Designation

Information used to determine assessment priorities was obtained from the Nebraska Department of Education. The NDE home Web page can be accessed at [www.nde.state.ne.us](http://www.nde.state.ne.us). The Nebraska Reading/Writing Standards Grades K-12 identifies the Standards That Are Reported (STAR). Although the assessments for reading and writing are locally developed, at a minimum, all the STAR standards are required as part of those local assessments. The STAR standards may be accessed at [www.nde.state.ne.us/ndestandards/AcademicStandards.htm](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ndestandards/AcademicStandards.htm).

Accordingly, in preparing the Nebraska Curriculum Matrix analysis, researchers determined that only those standards denoted as STAR standards would be given a High (H) designation. Those standards not identified as STAR standards were given a Low (L) priority designation, but this designation is not intended to suggest that non-STAR standards should not, or will not, be assessed – merely that the non-STAR standards are not those standards that the state requires be reported on, assessment-wise, for purposes of AYP determinations. There were no Medium (M) designations given. The Reading/Writing Summary of reported data is presented in Table 1 following.

**Table 1. Nebraska Reading/Writing Standards Reported Data Summary**

Nebraska Reading/Writing			STAR			*Curriculum Survey		
	Strands	Standards	H	M	L	H 1-35	M 36-70	L 71+
<b>Grade 3</b>	4	16	5	0	11	13	0	3
<b>Grade 4</b>	4	16	5	0	11	13	0	3
<b>Grade 5</b>	4	15	5	0	10	12	1	2
<b>Grade 6</b>	4	15	5	0	10	12	1	2
<b>Grade 7</b>	4	15	5	0	10	12	1	2
<b>Grade 8</b>	4	15	5	0	10	12	1	2
<b>Reading/Writing 11</b>	4	14	5	0	9	10	4	0
<b>Totals</b>	28	106	35	0	71	84	8	14

## Mathematics

The K-12 mathematics curricula are locally designed and are based on the Nebraska Department of Education’s approved standards. The curriculum includes strands on Numeration/Number Sense, Computation/Estimation, Measurement, Geometry/Spatial Concepts, Data Analysis, Probability and Statistical Concepts, and Algebra.

### Priority Designations

The Nebraska Mathematics Standards Grades K-12 identifies the Standards That Are Reported (STAR), which are those tested standards that the state requires be reported for purposes of AYP determinations. Although the assessments for mathematics are locally developed, as a minimum, all the STAR standards are required as part of those local assessments. The STAR standards may be accessed at [www.nde.state.ne.us/ndestandards/AcademicStandards.htm](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ndestandards/AcademicStandards.htm).

The mathematics testing priority designations were assigned to all the Nebraska Mathematics Standards such that STAR standards were given a High (H) designation. Those standards not denoted as STAR standards were given a Low (L) priority designation. There were no Medium (M) designations given. The mathematics reported summary data are presented in Table 2 below.

**Table 2. Mathematics NDSA Reported Data Summary**

Mathematics			STARS			*Curriculum Survey		
	Strands	Standards	H	M	L	H 1-35	M 36-70	L 71+
<b>Grade 3</b>	6	18	8	0	10	17	1	0
<b>Grade 4</b>	6	18	8	0	10	17	1	0

<b>Grade 5</b>	6	18	8	0	10	17	1	0
<b>Grade 6</b>	6	24	8	0	16	23	1	0
<b>Grade 7</b>	6	24	8	0	16	23	1	0
<b>Grade 8</b>	6	24	8	0	16	23	1	0
<b>Grade 11</b>	6	24	7	0	17	22	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	42	150	55	0	95	142	8	0

## Science

The K-12 science curriculum is locally designed and is based on the Nebraska Department of Education approved standards, strands: Unifying Concepts, Science as Inquiry, Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Science and Technology, Science Personal and Social Perceptions, and History and Nature of Science. The Nebraska Department of Education requires that all standards designated as STAR standards are reported on the state level. The STAR standards selected for assessment are a subset of standards from the Science and Inquiry, Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth and Space Science strands.

### Priority Designations

Science testing priority designations were assigned to all the Nebraska Science Standards. Those standards denoted as STAR standards were given a High (H) designation. Those standards not denoted by NDE as STAR standards were given a Low (L) priority designation. There were no Medium (M) designations given. The STAR standards may be accessed at [www.nde.state.ne.us/ndestandards/AcademicStandards.htm](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ndestandards/AcademicStandards.htm). The science reported summary data are presented in Table 3 below.

**Table 3. Science STARS Reported Data Summary**

Science		NDSA			*Curriculum Survey			
	Strands	Standards	H	M	L	H 1-35	M 36-70	L 71+
<b>Grades 2-4</b>	8	22	13	0	9	22	0	0
<b>Grade 5</b>	8	26	12	0	14	24	1	1
<b>Grade 8</b>	8	26	12	0	14	24	1	1
<b>Grades 9-12</b>	8	31	16	0	15	27	4	0
<b>Totals</b>	64	105	53	0	52	97	6	2

## Curriculum Matrix Summary Totals for NDSA-Tested English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science

Table 4 summarizes state level-reported data for Reading/Writing, Mathematics, and Science assessed by the STARS.

**Table 4. Totals for All STARS Tested Grade Levels in Reading/Writing, Mathematics, and Science.**

State Assessment		STARS			*Curriculum Survey			
	Strands	Standards	H	M	L	H 1-35	M 36-70	L 71+
<b>Reading/Writing</b>	28	106	35	0	71	84	8	14
<b>Mathematics</b>	42	150	55	0	95	142	8	0
<b>Science</b>	64	105	53	0	52	97	6	2
<b>Grand Totals</b>	134	361	143	0	218	323	22	16

\***Curriculum Survey** in the preceding charts refers to the International Center for Leadership in Education’s *Survey of Essential Skills*, a forced-ranking by approximately 20,000 adults of the 100 proficiencies deemed most important for high school graduates in each of English, math, and science. Proficiencies ranked 1-35 in each subject were assigned a High (H) rating. Items ranked 36-70 were assigned a Medium (M) rating; and proficiencies ranked 71+ were assigned a Low (L) rating. A complete description of the *Survey of Essential Skills* is provided elsewhere in this resource kit.

## Curriculum Matrix Summary Total Percentages for NDSA Tested English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science

Table 5 below presents the number of NDSA standards compared to the number of standards tested, expressed as percentage.

**Table 5. Percentages for All STARS-Tested Grade Levels in Reading/Writing, Mathematics, and Science.**

	# Of Standards	# Of Standard Tested	% Of Standards Tested
<b>Reading/Writing</b>	106	35	33%
<b>Mathematics</b>	150	55	37%
<b>Science</b>	105	53	51%
<b>Totals</b>	361	143	40%

## Information Sources

The Nebraska Department of Education

[www.nde.state.ne.us](http://www.nde.state.ne.us)

Academic Standards

[www.nde.state.ne.us/nde/AcademicStandards.htm](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/nde/AcademicStandards.htm)

Assessment and Evaluation

[www.nde.state.ne.us/stars/index.html](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/stars/index.html)

