Nebraska P-16

University of Nebraska
Board of Regents
September 16, 2005
Thirty States, including Nebraska, are now engaged in P-16 initiatives -- programs that involve education systems from preschool through college.

Each state concentrates on its own needs, but all are motivated by the same phenomenon -- not enough American students are succeeding in our current education systems.
# National Assessment of Educational Progress (2000): Percent of 12th grade Students Proficient in Math

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Proficiency Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-income</td>
<td>4%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
P-16: Rationale

NAEP Math Assessment: 12th Graders scoring “below basic”

All students 35%
Hispanic 56%
African American 69%
Low-income 60%
Among the 29 member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which includes most industrialized nations, the United States scored 24th in math in 2003. The United States also scored 24th on the percent of students in the OECD’s highest level of math achievement.
New Participants in the World Economy:

- China, India and Russia have a combined population of 3 billion People.
- 10% of these people are highly educated (300 million people).
- The United States has 300 million people.
- 25% are highly educated (75 million people).
P-16: Rationale

Bachelor’s degrees in engineering, 1999:

- United States: 61,000
- European Union: 134,000
- Japan: 103,000
- China: 195,000
Of students entering college with plans to major in science or engineering, less than 40% graduate with a degree in those fields within six years.

For minorities, the figures drops below 25%.
P-16: Rationale

National ACT Test Results 2005:

- 68% of students well prepared in English
- 41% ready for college algebra
- 26% prepared for college biology
- 56% of test-takers reported being enrolled in a core curriculum that includes four years of English, and three years each of math, science and social studies.
P-16 History

Emerged in the late 1990’s when it became evident that little progress in education reform had been made since the 1983 “Nation at Risk” report.

National leaders concluded cooperation among all education sectors was required to address the issue. It was time for the blame-game to stop.

Launched in Nebraska in 1998 by then-University of Nebraska President L. Dennis Smith and Nebraska Commissioner of Education Doug Christensen.
P-16 History

Endorsed by the Board of Regents and by the Nebraska State Board of Education in 1999.

Increased the dialogue among the sectors of Nebraska education.

Sponsored four statewide P-16 conferences featuring nationally recognized speakers.
P-16 History

- Collaborated with the Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium, the Greater Nebraska Superintendents, other groups.
- Produced curriculum-alignment materials in math, English/language arts, world languages.
- Assisted in development of FutureForce Nebraska, Civics Nebraska.
P-16 History

Distributed materials to 8th graders and parents on the need to take rigorous high school courses.

Participated in national activities of the Education Trust, National Association of System Heads, Congressional Conference on Civic Education, etc.
Refocusing Nebraska P-16

President Milliken: High-quality education is a critical element in the economic competitiveness of a state as well as improving the prosperity and quality of life for students.

Governor Heineman: Academic rigor requires partnerships between K-12 education and institutions of higher learning.
Legislative Resolutions 174 and 75:

- Increase the number of students who enter postsecondary education.
- Increase percentage who persist to graduation.
- Increase the number of college-educated people who remain in Nebraska.
- Unprecedented cooperation among education sectors needed to achieve these 3 priorities.
Policy leaders must support comprehensive, coordinated, system-level improvement from pre-kindergarten through postsecondary education -- a span referred to as “P-16.”
National Voices

Institute for Educational Leadership (2005):

Responsibility for reform cannot be carried by one sector, but must be shared across systems, focusing on improving K-12 and postsecondary education for all students.
National Voices

National Commission on Accountability in Higher Education (2005):

The lack of compatibility between K-12 and higher education policies and practices is one of the great failings of American education.
National Voices

National Governors Association Action Agenda for Improving America’s High Schools (2005):

At a minimum, states should set up a permanent statewide commission or roundtable to frame a common education agenda and track progress.
Nebraska P-16 Renewed

Proposed Goals:

- Increase student success – for their own benefit and to improve Nebraska’s economic competitiveness.
- Improve college-going and graduation rates.
- Communicate with students and parents the importance of postsecondary education.
- Develop more effective ways of explaining the actual costs of higher education (most people overestimate the costs).
Nebraska P-16 Renewed

Implications: what’s needed to achieve the goals?

- More rigorous high school education.
- Better student and parental understanding of postsecondary requirements.
- Effective preparation for high school and planning for college and career in the middle grades.
Nebraska P-16 Renewed

Implications (continued):

- Literacy in language and math by 4th grade.
- Emphasis on preparation for careers.
- Quality early childhood education for all children.
- Highly effective teachers at all levels.
Nebraska P-16 Renewed

Implications (continued):

- Improved advising and guidance programs.
- Strong teacher, administrator and counselor preparation programs.
- Increased parental involvement.
- Support from business, government, citizens.
- Better communication among sectors and with parents and communities.
Nebraska P-16: Steering Committee

Member Organizations:

- Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Nebraska*
- Nebraska State College System*
- Nebraska Community College Association*
- Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education*
Member Organizations (continued):

- EducationQuest Foundation*
- Nebraska Council of School Administrators*
- Nebraska State Education Association*
- Nebraska Association of School Boards*
- Nebraska Business-Higher Education Forum*
Nebraska P-16: Steering Committee

Member Organizations (continued):

- Nebraska PTA
- Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry*
- Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce*
- Lincoln Chamber of Commerce*
- Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children*
Nebraska P-16: Steering Committee

Member Organizations (continued):

- Omaha Archdiocesan Schools
- Nebraska State Board of Education
- University of Nebraska Board of Regents
- Governor’s Policy Research Office
- Education Committee – Nebraska Legislature
- State Budget Office
Member Organizations (continued):

- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Health and Human Services System
- Nebraska Department of Education*
- University of Nebraska*
Nebraska P-16: Funding

Funding Arrangements:
$50,000  EducationQuest Foundation
$50,000  Nebraska Department of Education
$50,000  University of Nebraska
$60,000  Steering Committee Member Organizations

Total permanent funding base: $210,000
# Nebraska P-16: Budget

## Budget Outline: Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel (1.25 FTE)</td>
<td>$140,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies, materials, etc.</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing, Communications</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-16 Sponsored Meetings</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$220,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nebraska P-16: Grant Applications

Applications for National Governors Association Grants:

- Expand Advanced Placement Participation: $500,000
- Develop a Statewide Longitudinal K-16 Data System: $150,000
- Developing Regional P-16 Steering Councils: $50,000
Nebraska P-16: Potential Actions

Actions the P-16 Steering Committee might take:

- Speak with a unified voice on needed educational improvements.
- Call public attention to areas of Nebraska education that need improvement.
- Develop and promote marketing and communications programs to reach students and parents.
Nebraska P-16: Potential Actions

P-16 Steering Committee Actions (continued):

- Obtain grants, contracts and donations to support specific P-16 efforts.
- Support constructive legislation at state and national levels.
- Encourage educational institutions and programs to increase their own P-16 efforts.
Participation in National P-16 Efforts

Nebraska P-16 will continue active participation in national P-16-related organizations such as:

- Education Trust
- National Association of System Heads
- State Teams Summer Institute
- Congressional Conference on Civic Education
Nebraska P-16: Putting Nebraska in perspective

“The biggest obstacle to Nebraska’s making improvements in its education systems is that they are already good”

Stephen R. Portch, Chancellor Emeritus, University System of Georgia and Keynote speaker, Nebraska P-16 Statewide Conference, May 2004
Nebraska P-16: Putting Nebraska in Perspective

Nebraska students take the ACT test in huge numbers and have the among the nation’s highest average scores, but we’re only about average in college-going and below average in adults with bachelor’s degrees or higher.

Nebraska students’ writing scores are up across the board, but African-American, American Indian and English-language learners have lower than average proficiency.
Nebraska P-16: Putting Nebraska in Perspective

Nebraska has among the highest high school graduation rates in the nation, but out of every 100 9th graders, only 22 will earn a bachelor’s degree in the normal time-frame.

The University of Nebraska has instituted effective admission standards, but its graduation rates are only average compared with similar institutions.
Nebraska P-16: Good things are already happening

- The State Board of Education has adopted an essential curriculum for all schools.
- The University of Nebraska Board of Regents has adopted a Tuition Assistance Plan for low-income students.
- The Department of Education has begun a process for rethinking the high school.
- The four campuses of the University of Nebraska currently have over 150 P-16 projects and programs in operation.
Nebraska P-16

Questions/Discussion