OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

The Draft Approval Rule, an Opportunity to Take a Deeper Dive

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Mission:

“To lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living.”

What are we talking about today?

Participants will:

- Learn latest information regarding the draft approval rule
- Future steps in the rule making process, and
- Have an opportunity to ask questions

Statute Authority:

79-318(5)(c) – Establish rules and regulations for approval and accreditation

- 79-703(1) – Purpose of approval and accreditation – to ensure both equality of opportunity and quality of programs offered (Public Schools)

- 79-1601 – All private, denominational, or parochial schools shall either comply either with the accreditation or approval requirements

79-760.06 – Establish an accountability system – public schools and school districts

Current Practice

Rule 10: Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools (2015)

- Minimum Standards
- Continuous Improvement
- Accountability Measures

Rule 14: Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Non-Public Schools (2012)

- Minimum Standards
- Accountability Measures

Board Position Statement: S2 - Accountability for a Quality Education System Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT)

As part of its evaluative processes and duties, the State Board of Education leverages three separate, but interrelated systems to ensure equal operation of schools and equitable outcomes for all students:

- Approval,
- Accreditation, and
- Accountability

Revised: October 4, 2019

Nebraska State Board of Education
(Oct. 2020)

Approve 3 Separate Rules:

1. Approval - Minimum standards to operate
2. Accreditation - Continuous improvement
3. Accountability - School measures/data

Repeal current Rule 10 and 14

The Why

Provide clarity:

- Separate concepts of approval, accreditation, and accountability

Create coherence:

- Link approval, accreditation, and accountability

Provide equality and equity:

- One set of minimum standards (approval)
- Create multi-cycle accreditation system

Ensure appropriate stakeholder involvement:

- School Boards role in approval, accreditation and accountability

The Who

Nebraska Department of Education

Educators (Administrators, Teachers, Staff, etc.)

Local School Boards

Educational Service Units

Community Members

The When and How

2018 – March 2021

- Groundwork – Board vision, stakeholder engagement, staff analysis (initial timeline December 2020 State Board vote)

April - June 2021

- Public online comment period and stakeholder input

July - September 2021

- Finalize drafts

October - December 2021

- Final drafts posted, public hearing, State Board of Ed approval

2022-2023 Academic Year - Implementation

Approval Rule

Combining Minimum Standards to Operate:

- Rule 10: Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools (2015)

- Rule 14: Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Non-Public Schools (2012)

-

Structure

Public and nonpublic schools shall meet all the same requirements; with limited exceptions

Organized by AQuESTT Domains

- Leadership
- Success, Access, and Support; and
- Teaching, Learning, and Serving

Statutes will not appear in the approval rule; however, will be required for approval. A complete list of rule and statute requirements will be in the annual Assurance Statement

Changes– Leadership Domain

- Ensure minimum standards are reflective of all approval requirements across Department
- Update safe and healthy schools section around student safety
- Require all schools have a properly endorsed principal to ensure proper administration and evaluations of staff
- Eliminate instructional units as a unit of measurement
- Encourage self-reporting and creating a more cooperative problem-solving approach to compliance

Changes– Success, Access, and Support Domain

- Strengthen existing multicultural education regulations
- Provide equity to highly mobile students by ensuring transferability of credits earned at approved schools
- Ensure elementary and middle schools have computer science and technology instruction
- Middle grades have world language instruction
- Align graduation requirements to ensure common minimum standards for all Nebraska diplomas
- Eliminate limitations on multi-site and distance learning

Changes– Teaching, Learning, and Serving Domain

- Ensure all schools have appropriate policies for the support, development, and evaluation of certified employees; aligned to Nebraska Teacher Principal Performance Standards

- Adjust school library requirements to ensure all school libraries are appropriately staffed while providing flexibility to best utilize the school librarian

Approval, Accreditation, and Accountability Rule Development Survey

The Nebraska Department of Education is required to accredit and/or approve all schools in Nebraska, guided by current Rule 10: Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools and Rule 14: Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools. As part of its commitment to advancing equity, the State Board of Education directed the NDE to begin a process for revising and reinterpreting these rules in the Fall of 2018.

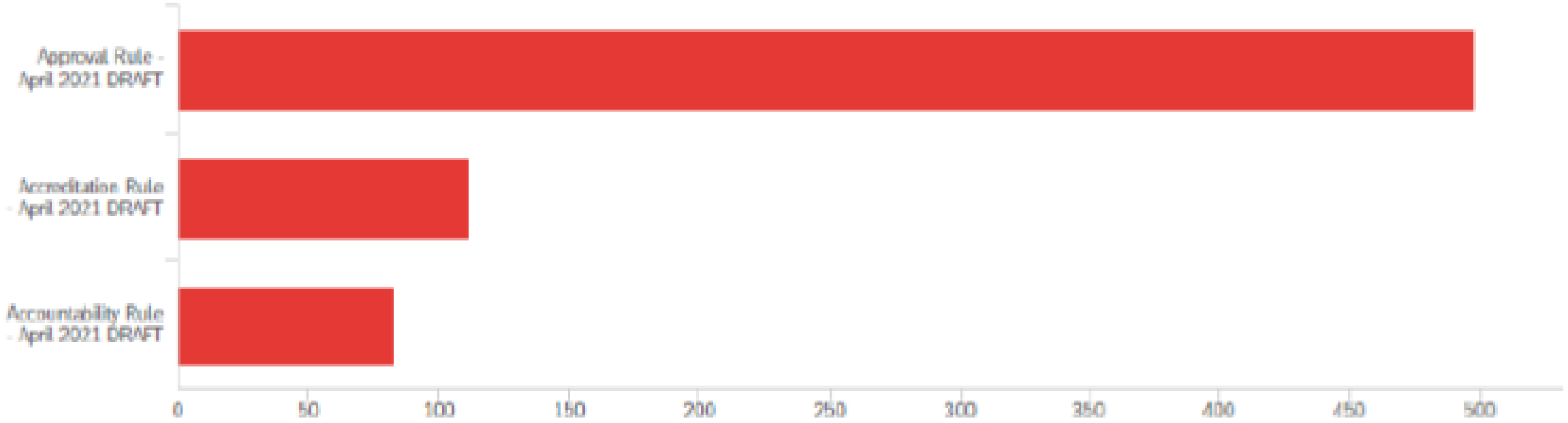
During this revision process the NDE created three separate, but interrelated, draft rules for approval, accreditation, and accountability of public and non-public schools.

Approval outlines the minimum standards for a school to operate. Accreditation emphasizes quality of programming and a focus on continuous improvement. Accountability uses data to inform stakeholders how a school is performing.

A survey was created and implemented for individuals to provide feedback concerning the draft rules. This survey closed on June 30, 2021. The NDE is now analyzing this feedback as part of the revision process.

- For a high level overview of the new three rule structure, including a timeline of the revision process, please click the following link: AQuESTT System of Approval, Accreditation, and Accountability
- For an in-depth analysis of specific changes found in the new draft regulations, please click the following link: AAA Rule Changes
- A draft copy of the Approval Rule can be found here: Approval Rule
- A draft copy of the Accreditation Rule can be found here: Accreditation Rule
- A draft copy of the Accountability Rule can be found here: Accountability Rule

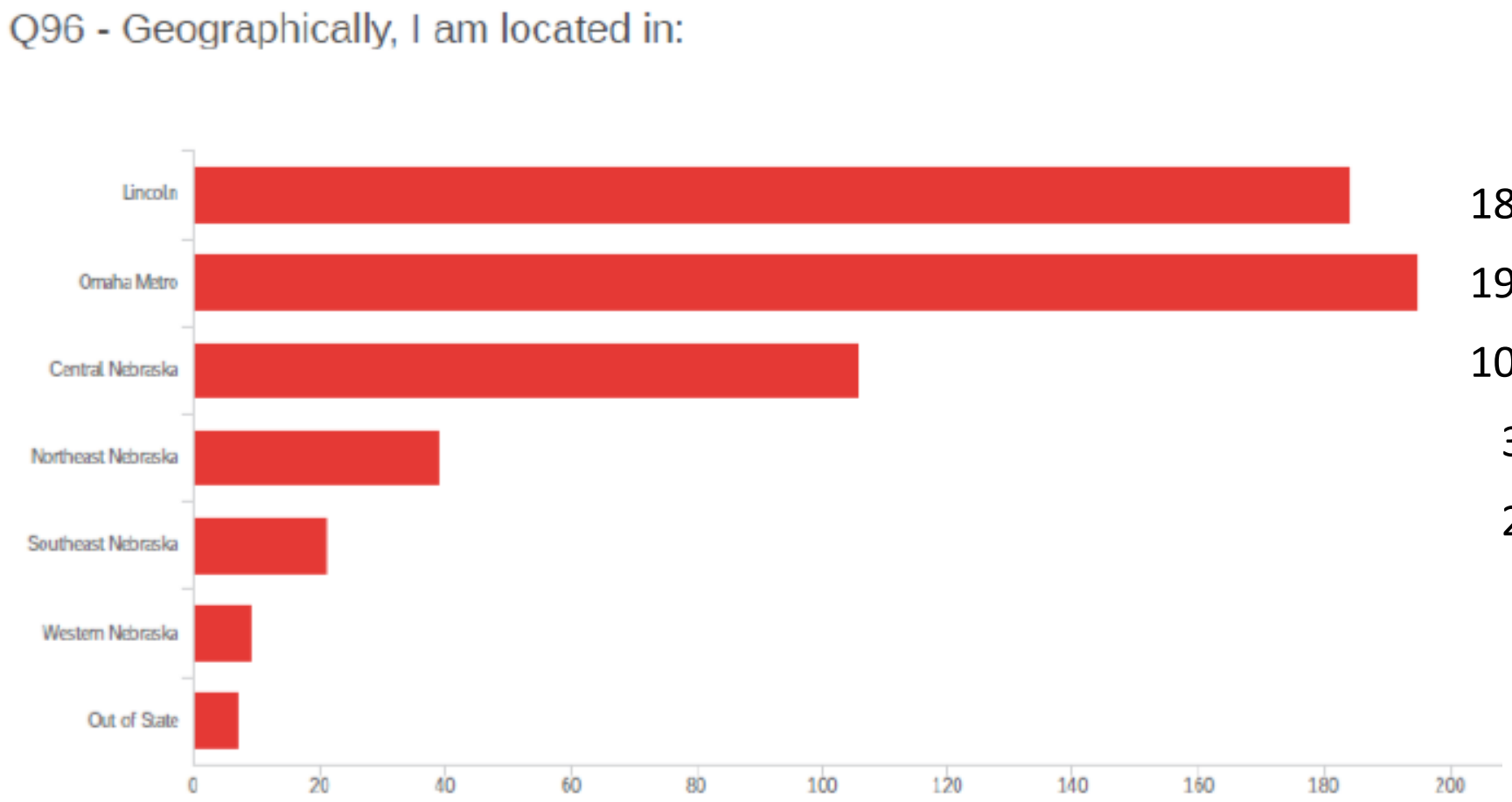
Who Responded to the Survey?



Question Q2 - Individual Rule Counts

Approval Rule - Draft April 2021…….498 (72%)
Accreditation Rule - Draft April 2021 …… 111 (16%)
Accountability Rule - Draft April 2021 …… 82 (12%)
Total ……691

Who Responded to the Survey?



184 (33%)

195 (34%)

106 (19%)

39 (7%)

21 (4%)

9 (2%)

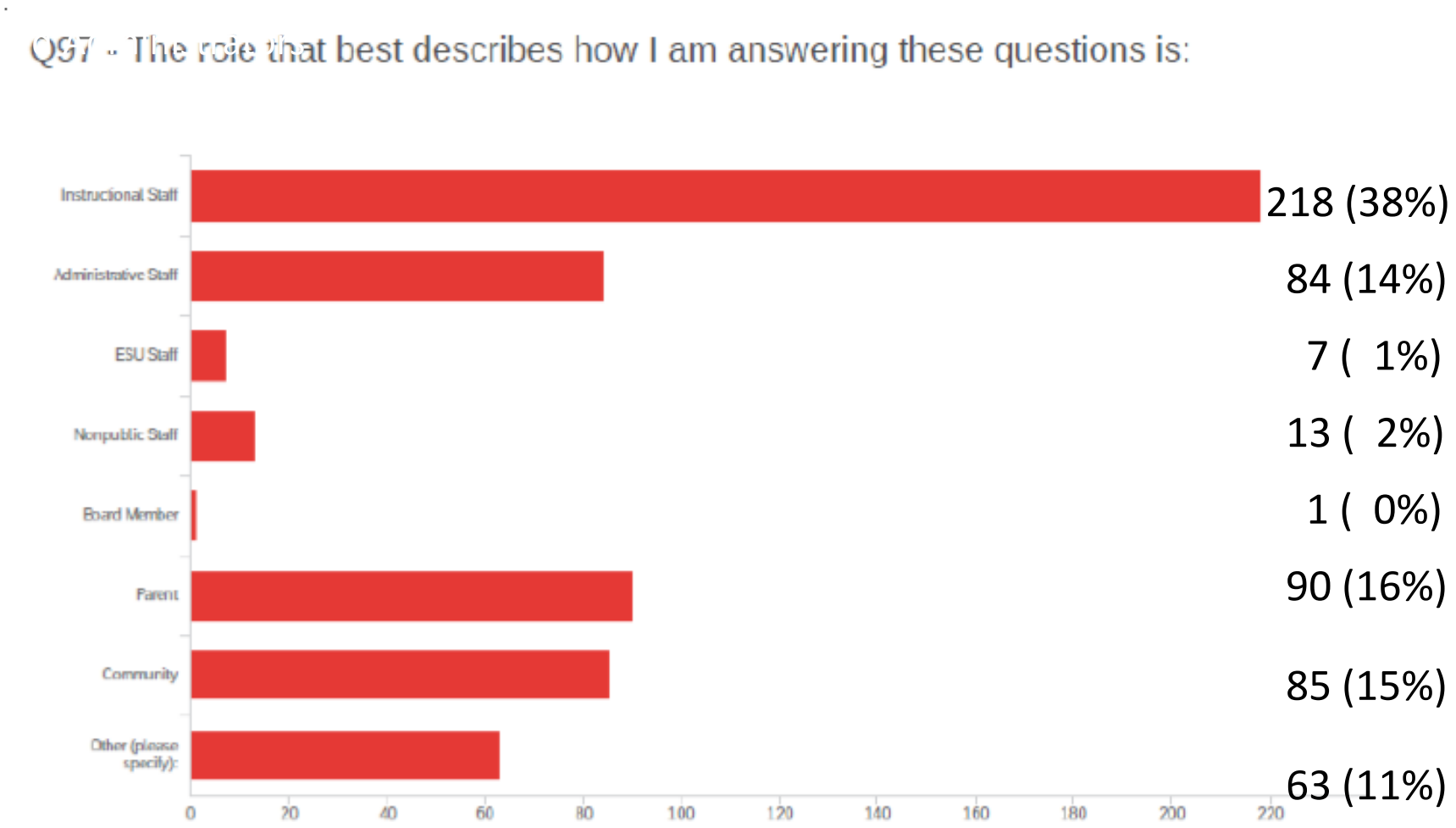
7 (1%)

Total 561

Who Responded to the Survey?

Other:
- Grandparents
- Head Teacher

- Nonpublic Admin.
- Grandparents
- Head teacher
- Retired Educators
- Librarian
- Teachers
- Concerned Citizen
- Spouse
- College Professor
- Tax Payer
- Director
- Physician
- Paraprofessional
- Graduate
- Family Advocate
- NE Citizen
- Community College Faculty
- Media Specialist
- Higher Education



218 (38%)

84 (14%)

7 (1%)

13 (2%)

1 (0%)

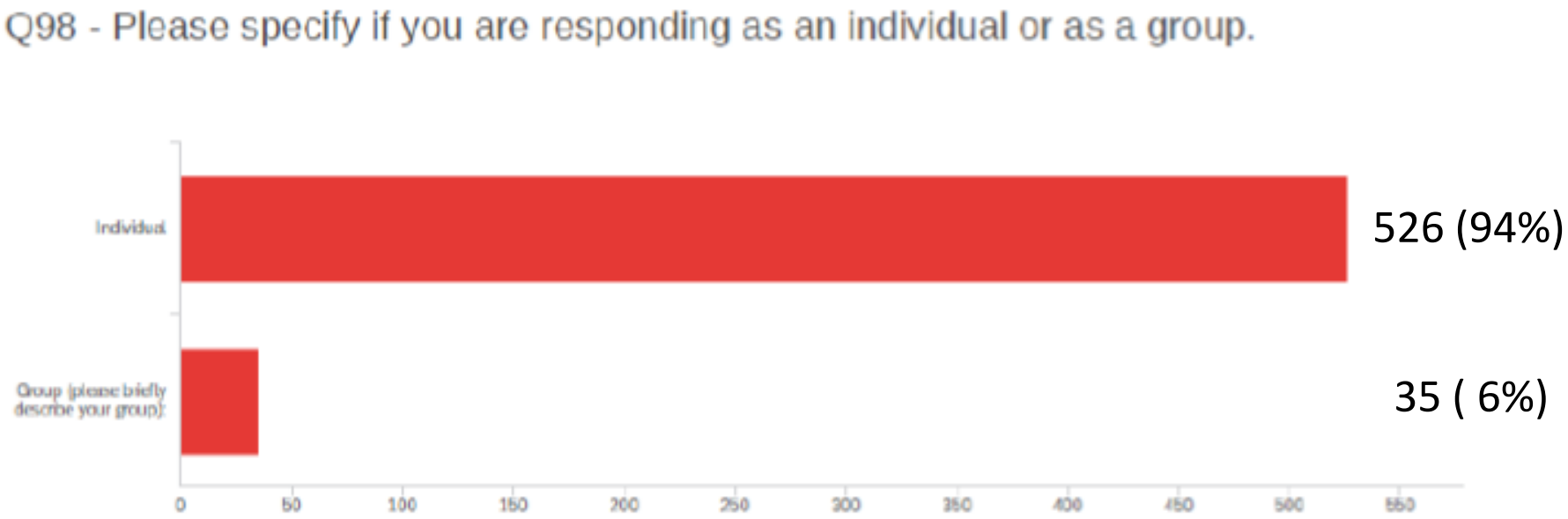
90 (16%)

85 (15%)

63 (11%)

Total 561

Who Responded to the Survey?



526 (94%)

35 (6%)

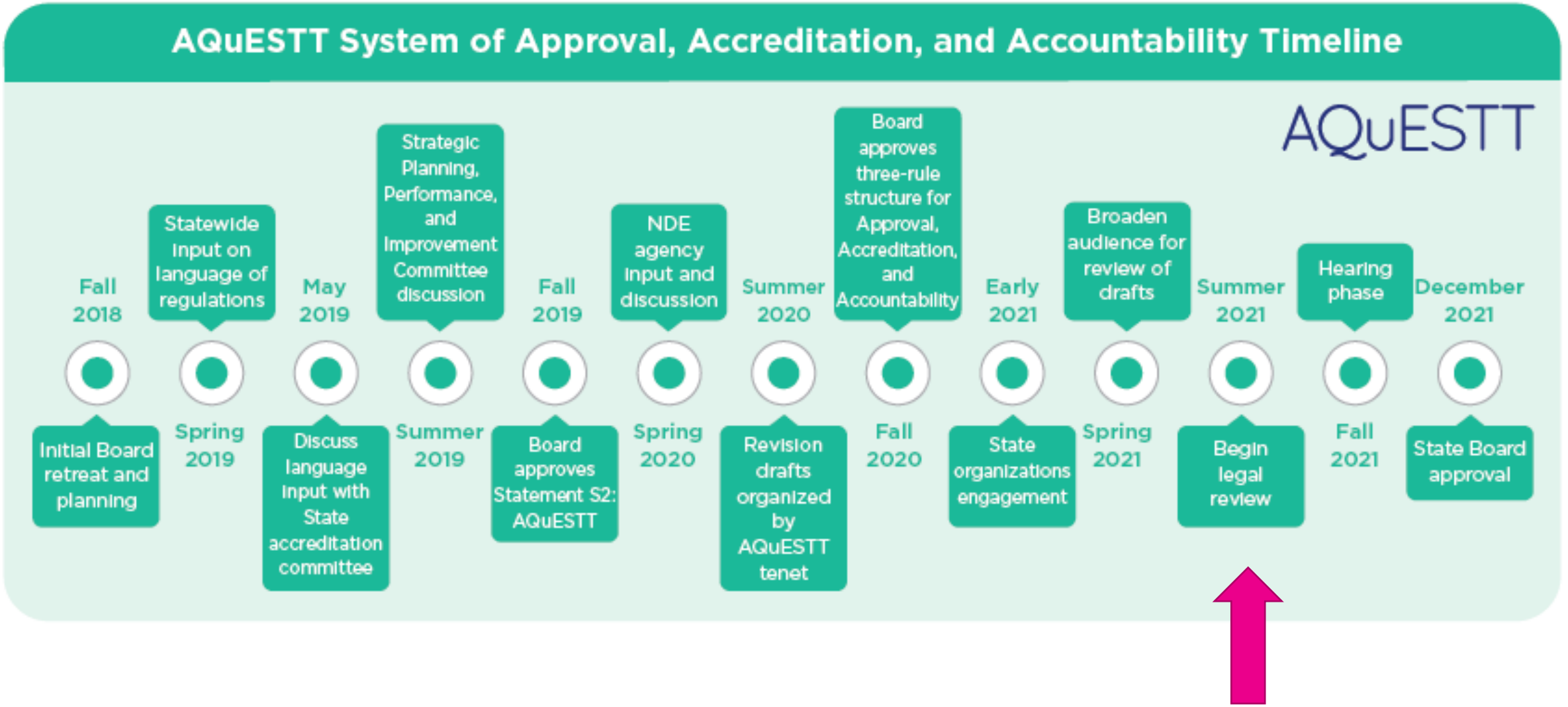
Groups Represented:

Nonpublic Preschool and Kindergarten Programs
Nonpublic schools
ACLU of Nebraska
Disability Rights Nebraska NE
Education Rights Counsel
200 parents
Public School Teachers
Stand for Schools
Reading Specialists
Catholic Diocese of Lincoln
LCMS Lutheran Schools
NLSA Schools
UNHS
Approved NE Catholic Schools
112 schools = 28,000 students

An Update on the Draft Approval Rule Topics Identified Through the Survey

- *All Public and Nonpublic School Systems shall have a principal*
- *Safe and Healthy Schools*
- *Required Instruction*
- *Library Media Services/Library Resources/School Librarian*

Current Timeline Update



What's Next?

State Accreditation Committee Meeting July 22, 2021 – Results

Nebraska State Board of Education Meeting – August 6, 2021 – Possible recommendations

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Accreditation Section

Office of Accountability, Accreditation, and Program Approval

Questions?

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2021/2022 NDE/ESU CIP Support Days

ESU 3, LaVista	Monday, 10/18/21	Hybrid
ESU 4, Auburn	Tuesday, 9/28/21	Hybrid
ESU 5, Beatrice	Wednesday, 6/30/21	In-person
ESU 6, Milford	Tuesday, 11/30/21	In-person
ESU 7, Columbus	Day 1: Year 5 Schools Thursday, 10/21/21 Day 2: Year 1 & 4 Schools Wednesday, 1/19/22	Hybrid
ESU 8, Neligh	Wednesday, 10/27/21	In-person
ESU 10, Kearney	Day 1: Year 5 Schools Wednesday, 9/22/21 Day 2: Years 3 & 4 Schools Tuesday, 9/28/21 Day 3: Years 1 & 2 Schools Thursday, 9/30/21	Hybrid
ESU 13, Scottsbluff	Wednesday, 11/17/21	In-person
ESU 15, Trenton	Wednesday, 10/6/21	Hybrid

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