

RENAISSANCE SOLUTIONS

To meet the goals of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), schools are accountable for improvement based on several school quality and student success indicators.

The Nebraska Department of Education has identified specific state goals for improving these categories, and Jostens Renaissance resources and strategies can help reach these goals.

STATE	STRATEGY
<p>Improve Academic Achievement: Goal for 89% proficiency in English language arts and 86% proficiency in math by 2026.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Renaissance Recognition Card Program · Renaissance Rallies (sample scripts available) · Renaissance Climate and Culture Idea #102: Test Care Packages
<p>Raise Graduation Rate: Evaluated by 4-year cohort with goal of 94% of students graduating by 2026.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Commitment to Graduate - Banners, grade-level checklists, activities and visual reminders · Harbor episode: Finishing Strong · Commitment to Graduate Idea #105: Sophomores' Keys to Success
<p>School Climate and Engagement: Data assessed by subgroup performance. So school improvement depends on full student and staff engagement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Renaissance Rallies · Positivity Resources
<p>Ensure 9th Grade On Track: Implement the AQuESTT goals for readiness in transitioning students to high school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Renaissance Recognition Card Program · Commitment to Graduate - Banners, grade-level checklists, activities and visual reminders
<p>Ensure College and Career Ready: Implement AQuESTT goals for readiness in transitioning students from high school to postsecondary and careers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Commitment to Graduate - Idea #213: Donut Decision Day · Commitment to Graduate - Idea #213: Senior Acceptance Wall



RENAISSANCE SOLUTION SPOTLIGHT

RENAISSANCE CARDS

“Since starting our card program ten years ago, the number of card holders has risen from approximately 40% to a little over 70%. Implementing the 5 R’s of Renaissance into our school has improved our school climate and culture by allowing all students and staff the opportunity to feel special and appreciated.”

-Andrea Henry, Teacher, LaSalle Peru High School, LaSalle, IL

“Platinum is our top card level, and we went from 20 in 2015 to 40 in 2016 to 52 in 2017! Bronze is the lowest level, and we went from 54 in 2016 to 67 in 2017!”

-Tori Boyle, Bureau Valley High School, Manlius, IL

Typically, schools offer a lot of recognition and appreciation for the top 25% of students and a lot of support for the bottom 25%, but the ones in the middle often get taken for granted or left to fend for themselves. Renaissance cards are a great way to recognize the middle 50% as well as motivate them to reach higher. There are a lot of ways to do it, but there are some common elements in most programs:

- Levels of membership, based on achievable academic and/or behavior goals
- A card or sticker identifying each student’s membership level
- No-cost or low-cost rewards, or perks, depending on membership level
- Results that show increased numbers of students qualifying, and decreased discipline, tardy and absence rates

Be sure to include students in setting the goals and benefits. Most of the student body needs to value the levels of membership, so that it becomes “cool” to participate and to feel proud about reaching the next level. It won’t happen overnight, but take it from schools that have seen the results: once you get the card system established, students will go the extra mile to qualify for the next level, and will support their friends in doing so as well.

To learn more about getting started with a Renaissance Card program, contact your Jostens representative.

For more ideas, visit www.JostensRenaissance.com/idea-exchange.