



# 2023 Annual Report

Full Report: <https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/DLiq1letj8CHp>

Each meeting that the Governor is in, we hear about gratitude. This is a timely topic for the Council this year as there is much that we can be grateful for regarding the last year. The legislature, the Governor's Office, the Department of Public Instruction, and, most importantly, the schools have been working tirelessly to create the best education environment possible in the US.

While this is our last year with Governor Burgum, the Council has benefitted from having the Executive Branch so involved in education. The Governor's office has helped to bring programs to the surface, enhance programs that are working, and offer support for those that need it to be successful. Whether it be a task force on innovation or a task force for teacher retention and recruitment, moving forward with intention is always observed. Governor Burgum, thank you for the Innovation Summits, the leadership during turmoil, and the focus on improving results for our students.

Our legislature has seen the difficulties of education. Some have taken it upon themselves to dive into schools, shadowing students, serving on educational committees, and truly getting to know how ND schools work. This has led to many bills that have made the task of taking education in ND to the next level an achievable task. Unfortunately, some bills have made it harder for educators to Be Legendary. Due to many legislators hard work and listening we have childcare programs to help with retaining teachers with infants, providing programming to listen to educators and create supportive school environments to ensure teacher retention and recruitment, and local leadership have been empowered to keep their school functioning at high levels. A huge thank you goes out to our local legislators who have listened when the field calls, emails, or testifies.

The ND DPI has been managing several programs to assist schools come out of the pandemic with the most substantial federal funding in decades. This could have severely hampered the staff in providing guidance, yet Superintendent Baesler and her staff have been managing ESSER funds, gathering working groups, creating plans with partners, and providing opportunities in a multitude of ways. Efforts to increase reading, math, life skills, school funding, staffing, and many others have been offered to districts who can choose which best fit them and how to advance on their terms. While the ND DPI must enforce compliance according to our own laws, thank you for always offering support and guidance through funding, opportunities, brainstorming, alignment, and engaging.

Finally, teachers, principals, and superintendents have been bending over backwards to gain a better of understanding of how best to make improvements in their schools so that students can learn. The Council has benefitted from having key representatives from different positions in schools there to center our discussions on what is needed in a state system to support our students. Thank you for always being there with students, making education in ND better. In spite of the constant changes, you keep one thing crystal clear; our kids matter!

This report will outline the work of the Council in the past year, but I wish for you to hear the sentiments of the members clearly. Schools matter. Educators matter. We do this work for and with you to create and sustain opportunities for students. I ask anyone reading this report to do one thing, if nothing else. Pass the gratitude on and tell a teacher why they matter.



**Luke Schaefer**  
Council Chairman

The Council is composed of twenty stakeholders from various backgrounds, including legislators, the governor, the state superintendent, school administration, teachers, and education associations. It is a diverse group that wrestles with the many important and intentional tasks given to us by the legislature. While each agency works to achieve its individual mission, together we see a chance to create efficiencies, but more importantly, more effective ways of providing ND students with a world-class education. Specifically, the Council is tasked with the following:



Assist in the implementation, dissemination, and communication of the statewide strategic vision and evaluate progress toward meeting the identified goals and strategies.



Perform a continuous review of the effectiveness and efficiency of access and delivery of education services and programs in the state.



Identify opportunities for increased collaboration among state education entities and stakeholders.



Identify gaps or duplications in education services and programs and provide recommendations for addressing those gaps or duplications.



Study and evaluate new and emerging educational initiatives and trends and provide recommendations for policy changes to state entities or the legislative assembly if necessary.



Support the implementation, dissemination, and communication of local or regional educational initiatives and practices, including innovative education programs, on a statewide level.



Be a communication and information hub to provide the public and interested parties with seamless access to state entities that deliver education services and programs.



**Gov. Doug Burgum**  
9/5/2019 - Open



**Kirsten Baesler**  
State Superintendent  
of Public Instruction  
9/5/2019 - Open



**Luke Schaefer**  
Council Chairman, Regional  
Education Association Director  
9/1/2023 - 8/31/2027



**Nick Archuleta**  
ND United President  
9/5/2019 - Open



**Alexis Baxley**  
School Boards Association  
Executive Director  
7/15/2022 - Open



**Marc Bluestone Sr.**  
Tribal School Representative  
9/1/2021 - 8/31/2025



**Jared Bollom**  
North Dakota School  
Counselor Association  
9/1/2023 - Open



**State Sen. Ryan Braunberger**  
Senate Minority Legislative  
Assembly Member  
6/20/2023 - Open



**Brandt Dick**  
ND Small Organized  
Schools Board Member  
9/1/2019 - Open



**Justin Fryer**  
North Dakota Council of  
Educational Leaders  
9/1/2023 - Open



**State Rep. Pat Heinert**  
House Majority  
6/19/2019 - Open



**Sara Medalen**  
Public School Elementary  
Teacher Representative  
9/1/2023 - 8/31/2027



**Sonia Meehl**  
State Board for Career  
& Technical Education  
7/28/2022 - Open



**Jeremy Mehlhoff**  
Public School Principal  
Representative  
9/1/2023 - 8/31/2027



**Dr. Sarah Ricks**  
Public School Secondary  
Teacher Representative  
9/1/2023 - 8/31/2027



**State Sen. Donald Schaible**  
Senate Majority Legislative  
Assembly Member  
6/20, 2023 - Open



**State Rep. Cynthia Schreiber-Beck**  
Legislative Management  
Assemble Member  
6/20/2023 - Open



**Beth Slette**  
Public School Administrator  
Representative  
9/1/2023 - 8/31/2027



**Melissa Vollmer**  
Special Education  
Unit Representative  
9/1/2022 - 8/31/2026



**Dr. Jennifer Weber**  
Statewide Longitudinal Data  
System Committee  
9/1/2021 - 8/31/2025

## INSIGHTS.ND.gov

Provided by SLDS

About the State

– Dashboards

State Summary

School Accountability

+ Academic Progress

+ Students

+ Post-Secondary Education

+ State Environment

+ Special Education Performance

+ Staff

HOME EDUCATION CTE COLLEGE WORKFORCE DATA ABOUT

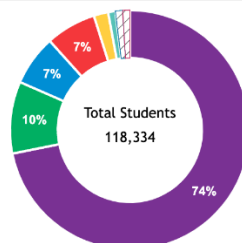
Search Insights

### North Dakota

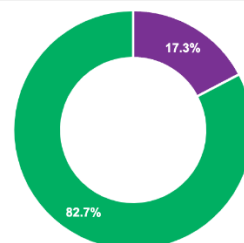
#### State Summary (2022-2023)

[Explanation](#)

#### Enrollment



#### Graduation Rate



#### Enrollment Groups

