

## **Professional Development Justification to Meet the Requirements of NDCC 15.1-21-12.1**

### **Justification Components**

A school district or nonpublic school may submit a statement of justification for a local professional development program that addresses how the training meets the law. It is recommended that schools request this information from their professional development vendor in the contracting phase to ensure training aligns with North Dakota law.

### **Alignment with Science of Reading Components**

- The training must align with scientifically based, evidence-based, and research-based best practices.
- The training must focus on phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and systematic direct instruction methods.
- According to Administrative Rules in Chapter [67-31-01](#), “systematic direct instruction” means the carefully planned sequence of instruction, with organization of material that follows a developmentally appropriate order within a pre-established routine. Systematic and direct instruction is explicit, follows a gradual release process, and allows opportunities for practice and feedback.”

### **Duration and Delivery Format**

- Provide information on the total instructional hours and whether the training was delivered in-person, online, or through a blended approach, as a concentrated event, or provided over a period of time.

### **Course Title and Provider**

- Name the professional development program and organization providing the training.

### **Submission Process**

#### **Prepare the Documentation**

- Create one PDF document that contains the justification statement and any supplementary materials, such as an agenda or detailed syllabus, that support the justification. Please do not include all training materials, only those necessary to clarify alignment with the law.

#### **Submit to the STARS Curriculum & PD Report in the Required Reporting Year**

- Upload the prepared justification document via the “Upload” button in the professional development section of the STARS annual report.

**NOTE:** In addition to the local justification, a spreadsheet confirming individual staff attendance and completion of the course is required.

### **Support and Assistance**

For questions or further guidance, please contact [dpiliteracy@nd.gov](mailto:dpiliteracy@nd.gov). The NDDPI is committed to supporting schools in meeting the reading curriculum and professional development requirements to enhance student literacy outcomes.