

ND Cultivating Outcomes through Numeracy Teacher Support (ND COUNTS) Overview

Background

During the 2025 Legislative Session, the North Dakota Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 2213, now [NDCC 15-1-21-12.2](#), establishing a statewide mathematics policy to strengthen mathematics instruction, teacher preparation, and student outcomes. This policy aligns with North Dakota's strategic vision for K–12 public education.

To reflect this new focus, the policy will be implemented under ND COUNTS: Cultivating Outcomes through Unified Numeracy Teacher Support. This name highlights the dual focus on student outcomes and teacher development while underscoring North Dakota's commitment to a unified, evidence-based approach to mathematics education.

Key Provisions for the 2025–2026 School Year

1. Professional Development for Current Educators

- NDDPI, in collaboration with the Regional Education Associations (REAs), will coordinate professional learning aligned to the policy.
- Training opportunities will focus on evidence-based mathematics practices, explicit instruction, mathematics content, and the use of high-quality instructional materials.
- Districts should anticipate targeted professional development opportunities and guidance for districts seeking their own professional learning, beginning in Fall 2025.

2. Mathematics Screening and Intervention

- Starting in the **2025–26 school year**, NDDPI will launch a pilot program for students in grades 4–8.
- The pilot will provide districts with access to individualized mathematics learning tools aligned with the **2023 ND Mathematics Content Standards**, skills progressions, and competencies, and that include:
 - **Skill-level screeners and assessments** to identify student needs
 - **Progress monitoring** across multiple grades
 - **Reports on student progress** to evaluate and improve performance outcomes
- District applications will be available in the ***fall of 2025***. Communication regarding this pilot program will be provided in the NDDPI Messenger.
- Up to **\$300,000** in funding will be allocated for the pilot to support student licenses and professional development for teachers.
- NDDPI will compile implementation data and report findings to the 70th Legislative Assembly.

3. **High-Quality Instructional Materials**

- Districts are encouraged to ensure curriculum materials align with the **2023 ND Mathematics Content Standards**.
- The **ND Regional Education Associations (REAs)** will support districts in reviewing, selecting, and aligning high-quality instructional materials to meet this requirement.

4. **Research-Based Intervention Programs**

- Districts must use evidence-based mathematics intervention programs that provide targeted support for students who need additional help.
- NDDPI is developing a suggested list of intervention programs aligning with state standards and policy expectations.

Next Steps for Districts

- **Professional Development:** Watch for NDREA-led training announcements through NDDPI Messenger and ndrea.org. Districts should also begin reviewing their **current PD plans** to ensure alignment with the new mathematics policy and refine areas for improvement.
- **Pilot Participation:** In Fall 2025, we will share information on how districts may apply to participate in the mathematics pilot.
- **Curriculum & Interventions:** Begin reviewing your district's current instructional materials for alignment to the 2023 ND Mathematics Content Standards, identifying strengths and areas for improvement. At the same time, evaluate your **existing intervention programs** and anticipate updates from NDDPI on a suggested list of research-based options.

Questions?

For questions regarding policy implementation, please contact:

Kate Waechter, Program Administrator
kwaechter@nd.gov
(701) 328-2132

Ann Ellefson, Director
aellefson@nd.gov
(701) 328-2488