



NORTH DAKOTA
**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Federal Title Programs

Consolidated Application Guidance

May 2025

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Federal Title Programs Consolidated Application Guidance

This document includes critical information for completing the Consolidated Application for Federal Title funds. The funds available through the Consolidated Application and applicable to this guidance are Title I Part A, Title II Part A, Title III Part A, Title IV Part A, Transfer, and Comingle.

PURPOSE OF CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION & FEDERAL TITLE PROGRAMS MONITORING

- To create a plan (Consolidated Application) and ensure that the use of federal funds will support the plan.
 - **Goal:** To ensure districts are “Funding the Plan” instead of “Planning for Funds.”
 - The NDDPI has designed a resource to help financial decision-making teams identify the best use of federal funds: [Funding Your Plan: Best Practices to Sustain Investments](#)
 - Includes concrete action steps school leaders can take to align funding with state policy priorities and promote sustainability.
 - Additional Resources:
 - [Return on Investment Planning Tool Instructions](#)
 - [Return on Investment Planning Tool Worksheet](#)
- NDDPI monitors work in partnership with districts and schools to provide information and technical assistance that ensures compliance with program requirements.
 - **Goal:** To help districts and schools reach performance goals and student outcomes.

OVERVIEW

- **WebGrants:** The Consolidated Application for Federal Title funding can be accessed at <https://nddpi.grants.nd.gov/index.do>.
- **Consolidated Application Website:** Pertinent information, including training videos, is posted on the [Consolidated Application website](#). Please review these helpful resources.

HELPFUL TIPS

- It is important to note that multiple people from a school district may have the ability and access to start and work on an application, so be cautious about creating multiple applications.
- Follow the instructions at the beginning of each form.
- Note character count.
- Click “Edit Form” and “Save Form” throughout the application process.
- When every section within every form is complete, “Mark as Complete” and “Submit.”

INTENT TO APPLY AND ASSURANCES

The Intent to Apply is completed in May and includes the assurances required for each program area.

Although leaders merely check the box for each assurance in the Intent to Apply pre-application, it is important to remember that assurances do require actions on the part of the school district. Districts are held accountable for those assurances in the Federal Programs Monitoring process.

GENERAL ASSURANCES

General assurances from the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and assurances required of all recipients of Federal funds are statutorily required to receive Federal funds under the specifically designated programs. General assurances (including Titles I, II, III, and IV) are posted on the Consolidated Application webpage: <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/districtsschools/grants/consolidated-application>

Grant recipients must also fulfill all statutory, regulatory, and program plan requirements inherent in each program's application and approval process. Recipients are subject to all state and federal assurances, program provisions and requirements, program non-regulatory guidance, and statutory guidelines established by the [Elementary and Secondary Education Act \(ESEA\)](#), [Uniform Grant Guidance \(UGG\)](#), [Education Department General Administrative Regulations \(EDGAR\)](#), [Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#), [United States Code \(USC\)](#), [North Dakota Century Code \(NDCC\)](#), and [North Dakota Administrative Code \(NDAC\)](#).

Compliance with these assurances constitutes a condition of continued receipt of Federal financial assistance and is binding upon the district for the duration of the programs. If the district fails to comply with these assurances, it is understood that funds can be terminated, and the right to receive further assistance can be denied.

Signed assurances must be kept on file for review upon request by independent auditors or State or Federal officials. Staff responsible for grants administration or fiscal management should either have a copy of the document or be informed of the location and contents.

COMPLETING SECTIONS OF THE CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION

Red headings denote a section of the Consolidated Application. **All districts will complete the following sections:**

- General Information
- Authorized Representative and School Board Approval
- Alignment of Funds
- Consultation and Evaluation

Districts complete other sections only if they are applicable:

- Corrective Actions
- Program Requirements and Set-Asides
- Targeted Assistance
- Schoolwide
- Title III Part A
- Title IV Part A

Note: If sections are not applicable, districts only need to click on the component and “Mark as Complete” before submitting the Consolidated Application.

Application Details			Preview Application
Application cannot be Submitted Currently <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application components are not complete 			
Component	Complete?	Last Edited	
General Information	✓	May 14, 2025 1:15 PM - DPI Tester	
Authorized Representative and School Board Approval 25-26		-	
Corrective Actions 25-26		-	
Program Requirements and Set-Asides 25-26		-	
Alignment of Funds 25-26		-	
Consultation and Evaluation 25-26		-	
Targeted Assistance 25-26		-	
Schoolwide 25-26		-	
Title III Part A		-	
Title IV Part A		-	

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE AND SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL

ALL DISTRICTS COMPLETE THIS SECTION

School Board Approval

The Consolidated Application for Federal Title funding must be approved before submission during a school board meeting. The application cannot be submitted without indicating the date approved.

Authorized Representative

The school board must indicate the approved authorized representative who holds signature authority for each federal program.

Additional Program Contacts (Optional)

The district may include additional contacts for each program.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

ONLY SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH REQUIRED CORRECTIVE ACTIONS COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Districts with corrective actions from the previous school year's Federal Programs Monitoring must upload requested documentation/evidence or provide narrative responses to address monitoring findings in the district's final monitoring memo and report.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND SET-ASIDES

ONLY SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH REQUIRED SET-ASIDES COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Districts are required to set aside funds for specific purposes to meet federal program regulations. The following set-asides are required for applicable districts to provide services.

Rank and Serve

This section must be completed if a district is required to complete the rank-and-serve process. Districts with more than 1,000 students or that have multiple buildings in a grade span must Rank and Serve. Rank-and-serve is a process used by school districts to decide which schools will receive Title I, Part A funds and how those funds will be distributed.

Schools are ranked by poverty level (highest to lowest) using an approved measure (like free/reduced lunch data or direct certification). Districts must serve schools in order of need, starting with the highest-poverty schools. The goal is to ensure that Title I funds support the students most in need.

Parent and Family Engagement Set-Aside (Title I)

Districts with a Title I, Comingle Title I, or Transfer Title I allocation of \$500,000 or greater must set aside a minimum of 1% to support parent and family engagement activities. At least 90% of the amount set aside must go to Title I schools. The district may reserve additional funds for district-level parent and family engagement activities. Parents must be involved in decisions on the best use of these funds.

The following are allowable parent and family engagement activities and strategies that should be included in the budget:

- Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for district and school personnel, parents, and family members regarding parent and family engagement strategies.
- Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and in schools.
- Disseminating best practices information on parent and family engagement, focusing on increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members.
- Collaborating (or providing subgrants to schools to enable them to collaborate) with community-based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement.
- Engaging in any other activities and strategies the district determines are appropriate and consistent with its parent and family engagement policy.

Equitable Services (Titles I, II, III, and IV)

ESSA requires districts to provide equitable services to eligible private school children, teachers, and other educational personnel in programs under Title I, Title II, Title III, and Title IV (20 U.S.C. §§ 6320(b) and 7881(d)). Only school districts with participating nonpublic schools complete this section.

The equitable services provision includes the following:

- Creates a state nonpublic ombudsman to monitor and enforce equitable services requirements
- Requires the state to give timely notice to private school officials regarding the amount of the allocation for educational services and other benefits for private school students
- Requires the proportional share of funds for equitable services to be calculated based on the district's entire Title I allocation before determining any allowable expenditures or transfers
- Requires all funding for equitable services to be obligated in the first fiscal year that the funds are available to districts
- Strengthens the timely and meaningful consultation provisions by requiring discussion of additional topics
- Requires districts to submit the results of the timely and meaningful consultation to the ombudsman
- Requires districts to provide private school officials with a written explanation of the reasons the district disagrees with the view of private school officials on a particular consultation topic
- Gives private school officials the option of signing an affirmation stating the district did not engage in timely and meaningful consultation
- Provides updates, guidance, and procedures regarding equitable services
- Adds specific time frames for the NDDPI and USED to consider a complaint from private school officials

Consultation between the district and private school officials is crucial under equitable services. Consultation is an agreement between the district and nonpublic school officials to provide equitable and effective programs for eligible nonpublic students. The goal of the consultation is to reach an agreement between the district and nonpublic school officials that is grounded in timely, meaningful, and open communication on critical issues. The district must consult with private school officials about the timeline and allow adequate notice to ensure it is meaningful consultation, all parties are well prepared, and data for decision-making is available. Successful consultation begins before implementing services, establishes positive and productive working relationships, ensures effective planning, continues throughout the implementation of equitable services, and ensures services provided meet the needs of eligible nonpublic school students, teachers and other educational personnel, and families.

Equitable Services Requirements:

- Conduct timely and meaningful consultation
- Consult and provide services to implement the provision of equitable services
- Involve the participation of parents and families of students attending participating nonpublic schools in the planning and development of services
- Maintain fiscal control of ESEA funds and property
- Determine eligibility and collect data to comply with provisions of equitable services
- Set aside funds for participating nonpublic schools
- Determine the proportionate share of funds used to provide equitable services (under Title I, based on the entire Title I allocation, before taking any other set-aside off the top)
- Engage in timely, meaningful consultation with nonpublic schools **BEFORE** transferring funds out of any eligible ESEA program (Title II and Title IV)

The [Affirmation of Consultation with Nonpublic School Officials](#) form for Titles I, II, III, and IV is the documentation to ensure that timely and meaningful consultation occurs. The consultation form includes topics to be discussed. Districts will upload a signed copy in the Consolidated Application in WebGrants for all participating ESEA programs. The district will also indicate the participating nonpublic schools in each federal Title program and complete the calculation of the equitable service to determine proportionate shares and amounts for services for each participating Federal Title program.

The district must keep records of consultation details, including dates, topics, communication methods, and outcomes. In addition, a summary must be provided of the agreed-upon equitable services to be provided to eligible nonpublic school children, teachers, and families. The summary must include all programs (i.e., Title I, II, III, and/or IV) in which the nonpublic school participates. If there are multiple schools, specifically identify each nonpublic school and each program within the school.

Additional information is available on the [Equitable Services for Nonpublic Schools webpage](#).

Homeless Set-Aside (Title I)

All public schools and districts receiving federal funds must ensure that services are provided to children and youth experiencing homelessness. To assist with these services, the law requires that school districts set aside Title I funds, as necessary, to provide services comparable to those that are provided to children in Title I-funded schools. These funds can also support educationally related services to children in shelters and other locations where homeless children may live. The services provided with these funds should support homeless students in succeeding in school and meeting academic achievement standards. It is important to note that all students identified as experiencing homelessness are automatically eligible for Title I, and comparable services may not necessarily mean the same services. Therefore, these funds may also be used to provide services not ordinarily provided to other Title I students.

Districts reporting at least one identified homeless student in STARS in the previous school year must budget Title I funds sufficient to meet the needs of students identified as experiencing homelessness.

The district must select a method of determining Title I set-aside funds, maintain records, and provide documentation of the method used when monitored. Some examples of ways to determine funding needs and set-aside amounts are the following:

- Multiply the number of children and youth experiencing homelessness reported in STARS by the Title I per-pupil amount on the Rank and Serve spreadsheet.
- Multiply the number of children and youth experiencing homelessness reported in STARS by a minimum of \$500.00 per pupil identified.
- Reserve an amount of Title I funds to supplement a McKinney-Vento grant award.
- Reserve a specific percentage based on the district's Title I allocation.
- Identify the needs of homeless children and youth and then fund accordingly by determining the cost of services (e.g., supplemental education services, materials and supplies for those services, costs associated with successful transition, etc.).

PLEASE NOTE: Only districts that have not identified youth experiencing homelessness may choose Local Funds as an option.

Using Title I Homeless Set-Aside Funds

Below are some strategies for using Title I homeless set-aside funds. These funds can assist homeless students in Title I and non-Title I schools.

- Tutoring services (remedial or accelerated instruction), especially in shelters or other locations where homeless students live
- Before-school, after-school, and/or summer programs
- Services to enable students to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school
- Personal school supplies such as backpacks and notebooks
- Items of clothing to meet a school's dress or uniform requirements
- Shoes necessary to participate in physical education classes
- Student fees necessary to participate in the general education program
- Graduation cap and gown/graduation fees
- Birth certificates necessary to enroll in school
- Counseling services/domestic violence counseling services
- Parental involvement specifically oriented to reaching out to parents of homeless students
- Costs for attaining a GED for parents participating in Head Start or Even Start
- Homeless awareness activities
- Research-based programs that benefit highly mobile students
- Fees for SAT/ACT testing if not waived by the college or university
- Cost of GED for an unaccompanied homeless youth
- Health-related services may be allowed if funds are not available from public or private sources (as a last resort, health, nutrition, other services such as eyeglasses and hearing aids, immunizations, and dental needs)

Additional information is available on the [Title VII, Part B- Homeless-McKinney-Vento webpage](#).

Neglected and Delinquent Set-Aside (Title I)

The district will select whether it is required to set aside funds for local neglected children. A district would only choose this option if it identified a neglected facility on the October Annual Count form. A "local institution for neglected children" is defined as a public or private residential facility, other than a foster home, that is operated for the care of children who have been committed to the institution or voluntarily placed in the institution under applicable State law, due to abandonment, neglect, or death of their parents or guardians.

Districts with local institutions serving neglected children within their boundaries have an obligation to provide additional instructional support and comparable Title I services to the students by reserving Title I funds. Those districts must reserve a sufficient amount of Title I funds to provide comparable supplemental academic and support services to students in neglected institutions who may be enrolled in the district at any time during the school year.

A student residing in a neglected institution and attending any school in the district or receiving academic services at the institution is eligible for Title I services. If a district has Title I and non-Title I schools, the district may use the neglected reservation to provide comparable Title I services to students in neglected institutions that attend non-Title I schools. If appropriate, Title I funds can also be reserved to serve children in local institutions for delinquent children and neglected or delinquent children in community day programs. If a district does not have a local institution for neglected children, the district is not required to set aside Title I funds (ESSA sections 1113[c][3][A][ii] and [B][i-ii]).

Using Title I Neglected Set-Aside Funds

Services must be reasonable and necessary to assist students in neglected institutions in taking advantage of educational opportunities. Title I funds shall only be used when funds or services are not available from other public or private sources that provide similar services for economically disadvantaged students in general. The ESEA requires sufficient funds to provide services to students in local neglected institutions. The NDDPI recommends that the district conduct a needs assessment to determine an adequate amount to reserve to support student learning. The following options may be used to calculate a set-aside amount:

- Districtwide per-pupil amount
- Percentage of the total Title I allocation
- Amount reasonable and necessary to provide comparable Title I services to students

Districts may use Title I Set-Aside funds to provide services including, but not limited to, the following:

- High-quality education programs to support students in meeting academic standards such as tutoring, credit recovery, graduation support, advanced coursework, and other evidence-based interventions
- Activities to facilitate the transition of students between facilities and schools such as increasing family engagement, transition specialists, and costs associated with plan development to connect students with services, including transportation and meeting costs
- Coordination of health and social services to support planning, time, professional learning, and space for after-school time, and access to services
- Special programming for academic support, including vocational and technical education, career counseling, curriculum-based education, assistance in securing student loans or grants for post-secondary education
- Mentoring or peer mediation
- Transportation costs for students to and from the school of origin and facility
- Professional learning for district staff to support identified needs of students
- District staff to coordinate and collaborate with the child welfare agency and the local neglected institution, including activities to eliminate barriers or support the student's education

Additional information is available on the [Title I Set-Aside for Students identified as Neglected or Delinquent webpage](#).

ALIGNMENT OF FUNDS

ALL DISTRICTS COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Investment of ESEA Funds

The NDDPI has aligned the focus of ESEA funds to the [ND PK-12 strategic vision](#) to guide district efforts toward achieving long-term outcomes for students:

- Increase students who enter kindergarten prepared to learn and increase the number of kindergarten classrooms that meet the needs of every learner
- Increase students who demonstrate reading proficiency in 3rd grade
- Increase students who meet expected learning gains each year
- Increase students who engage in learning
- Increase students who graduate Choice Ready
- Reduce the disparity in achievement for students with disabilities, students in poverty, and Native American students

The district must describe how the investment of ESEA funds (Title I, II, III, IV, Transfer, Comingle) aligns to these priorities.

Staffing

Districts must list each staff member paid with federal funding (Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, Transfer, Comingle Title I). There are two options for completing this section:

1. Complete a Table: Districts can complete a table by adding rows for each staff member, or
2. Upload: Districts with large staff may upload a staff spreadsheet in place of adding staff in the table.

Class-Size Reduction (CSR) (if applicable)

If a district is planning to budget federal Title funds for class-size reduction, this section must be completed. Districts must summarize their plan to improve student achievement by hiring additional effective educators to reduce class size by including descriptions of:

- CSR rationale
- CSR student impact
- Evidence of the previous year's CSR having a positive impact on student academic performance

Additionally, districts must list school-level information pertaining to CSR:

- School Name
- Grade/Content Area
- Number of students per teacher before CSR
- Number of students per teacher after CSR

Comprehensive Needs Assessment

Districts must summarize how activities, supports, and practices are aligned to challenging State academic standards, and funds are prioritized to schools that:

- Have the greatest need (as determined by the district)
- Have the highest percentage of low-income children
- Are identified for TSI or CSI
- Are identified as a persistently dangerous school

In addition, districts that accept Title IV funds must conduct a current (within the past three years) comprehensive needs assessment, which must address the following:

- Access to and opportunities for a well-rounded education for all students;
- School conditions for student learning to create a healthy and safe school environment; and
- Access to personalized learning experiences supported by technology and professional development for the effective use of data and technology.

Narratives are required for Titles I, II, IV, Transfer, and Comingle funds. The response should discuss all accepted federal funds regarding:

- The district's process and the support and guidance provided to schools for conducting a comprehensive needs assessment and
- Summarize how the investment of accepted ESEA funds aligns with the district's local strategy map and/or strategic planning, highlighting critical initiatives, goals, action planning, and the trends and needs identified in the district's comprehensive needs assessment, leading to investments using federal funds.

CONSULTATION AND EVALUATION

ALL DISTRICTS COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Consultation with Stakeholders

It is the district's responsibility during the development, review, and revision of the district's Consolidated Application to meaningfully engage with all stakeholders, including teachers, principals, school leaders, homeless liaisons, foster care liaisons, at-risk liaisons, parents, families, institutions, and community organizations that are representative of the following students served by the district:

- Low-income students
- English learners
- Children with disabilities
- Children and youth in foster care
- Migratory children
- Children and youth experiencing homelessness
- Neglected, delinquent, and at-risk students identified under Title I, Part D
- Immigrant children and youth
- American Indian and Alaska Native students

The district must select the stakeholders consulted with and describe the consultation process in developing this plan. The district must keep records, including dates, meeting minutes, communication methods, and any other evidence supporting meaningful consultation.

Annual Evaluation

All programs or activities must be evaluated annually. The district must describe how the district will use data and ongoing consultation to continually update and improve activities, focusing on student outcomes and program effectiveness. This narrative is required for Titles I, II, III, IV, Transfer, and Comingle funds. The response should discuss all accepted federal funds. Questions to consider addressing may include:

- What are the intended goals of the ESEA programs?
- How does the district evaluate its return on investment and effectiveness for the programs supported by ESEA funds?
- What elements are considered for modifying, continuing, or terminating ESEA programs?
- How does the district periodically evaluate program objectives and intended outcomes for activities of each program?

TITLE I

The purpose of the Title I program is to provide all children with a significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education and to close educational achievement gaps. Title I is an ESEA program intended to:

- Ensure all children have the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach proficiency on challenging state academic standards and assessments,
- Provide funding to supplement educational opportunities for students in higher-poverty schools,
- Provide professional learning for school staff, and
- Implement other strategies for raising student academic achievement.

The district must allocate funds to school attendance areas identified as eligible and selected to participate in rank order based on the percentage of low-income students. The school allocation is determined by a per-pupil amount times the total number of children from low-income families in each school. Funds are allocated for use by the school, but it remains the district's responsibility to ensure compliance of school expenditures. Additional set-aside requirements and administrative costs impact amounts.

Title I funds can support a wide range of activities to help Title I students meet state academic standards. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Providing eligible students with a well-rounded education, which ESSA defines as "courses, activities, and programming in subjects such as English, reading or language arts, writing, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, geography, computer science, music, career and technical education, health, physical education, and any other subject, as determined by the state or district, to provide all students access to an enriched curriculum and educational experiences."
- Instructional supports,
- Non-instructional supports such as behavior and mentoring supports and, social and emotional learning, and
- Improving school quality.

Title I requires districts to concentrate the funds in schools with the highest percentages of poverty and provide sufficient funds to make a difference in the academic performance of these students.

Based on the needs assessment, the school may implement either a schoolwide or targeted assistance program. The decision should be locally determined in consultation with stakeholders.

High-Impact Uses of Funds

Districts must reserve Title I funds for the following required activities:

- Services for students experiencing homelessness
- Services for children in local institutions for neglected students and delinquent students
- Parent and family engagement (required if the LEA receives \$500,000 or more)
- Equitable services for eligible private school students (amounts depend on proportionate share)

Title I funds must carry out a variety of activities including, but not limited to:

- Developing and implementing plans to support and improve low-performing schools identified by the state through its accountability system,
- Providing services to homeless children,
- Providing services to children in local institutions for neglected children, and if appropriate, to children in local institutions for delinquent children, and neglected or delinquent children in community day programs,

- Collaborating with child welfare agencies to ensure the educational stability of children in foster care,
- Allocating Title I funds to eligible schools through a poverty-based procedure known as “ranking and serving”
- Developing policies and providing services to engage parents and families,
- Providing services to eligible private school students, and
- Overseeing Title I activities in Title I schools.

Dependent upon the school’s needs assessment, high-impact funded activities may be used to support:

- High-quality preschool to facilitate the transition from early learning to elementary education programs (review the [Early Childhood Title I](#) webpage for more information);
- Recruitment and retention of effective teachers, particularly in high-need subjects;
- Increased learning time;
- Providing professional learning to teachers, principals, other school leaders, paraeducators, and, if appropriate, specialized instructional support personnel, and other school personnel;
- Evidence-based interventions to accelerate the acquisition of content knowledge for English learners;
- Activities designed to increase access and prepare students for success in high-quality advanced coursework to earn postsecondary credit while in high school (e.g., Advanced Placement, early college high schools, and dual or concurrent enrollment programs);
- Career and technical education programs to prepare students for postsecondary education and the workforce;
- Counseling, school-based mental health programs, mentoring services, and other strategies to improve students’ nonacademic skills that impact academic learning;
- School climate interventions (e.g., anti-bullying strategies, positive behavior interventions and supports);
- Equipment, materials, and training needed to compile and analyze student achievement data to monitor progress, alert the school to struggling students, and drive decision-making;
- Evidence-based strategies intended to allow for early identification of students with learning or behavioral needs and to provide a tiered response based on those needs (including multi-tiered systems of support);
- High-impact strategies shown to be effective at increasing family and community engagement in the school, including family literacy programs;
- Devices and software for students to access digital learning materials and collaborate with peers and related training for educators (including accessible devices and software needed by students with disabilities);
- Programs to support improved economic, educational, health, safety, and other outcomes that address intergenerational poverty.

Additional information is available on the [Title I webpage](#).

PLEASE NOTE: Districts must demonstrate that the methodology they use to allocate state and local funds to schools provides each Title I school with all of the state and local money (or resources) it would receive if it did not participate in the Title I program.

TITLE II

Title II program narratives have been incorporated into the Alignment of Funds and the Consultation, Equity, and Evaluation sections in the Consolidated Application. There is not a separate Title II section to complete.

Title II Funding Priorities

Every school district must conduct a needs assessment to determine the needs of the teaching force in order to have all students meet challenging state content and academic achievement standards. After completing a needs assessment, districts must target the Title II funds to meet the identified needs.

Additional Guidance on Title II

Purpose:

In general, the purpose of Title II is to meet the following goals:

- Increase student achievement consistent with state standards,
- Improve the quality and effectiveness of teachers, principals, and other school leaders,
- Increase the number of teachers, principals, and other school leaders who are effective in improving student academic achievement in schools, and
- Provide low-income and minority students greater access to effective teachers, principals, and other school leaders.

High-Impact Uses of Funds

The state of North Dakota has the responsibility to provide stronger support and technical assistance to districts to ensure federal funds are leveraged to achieve local goals (such as those outlined in strategy maps). Although ESSA offers a broad menu for [uses of funds](#), North Dakota recognized the following as high-impact, evidence-based investments.

High-Quality Professional Development – This includes implementing high-quality, personalized, evidence-based professional development for teachers, instructional leadership teams, principals, or other school leaders focused on improving teaching and student learning. This professional development must be sustained, personalized, and job-embedded initiatives that address identified needs gaps rather than stand-alone, one-day, or short-term professional development. ESSA states this professional development may include training teachers, principals, or other school leaders to do the following:

- Effectively integrate technology into curricula and instruction,
- Use data to improve student achievement (ensuring individual student privacy under FERPA),
- Effectively engage parents, families, and community partners and coordinate services between school and community,
- Help all students develop the essential skills for learning readiness and academic success,
- Develop policy with school, local educational agency, community, or state leaders, and
- Participate in opportunities for experiential learning through observation.

The complete definition of [professional development](#) should be referenced to ensure the district is not using funds for stand-alone, one-day, or short-term professional development.

Leadership – Leadership development for teacher leaders, principals, and other school leaders, to include:

- Professional development to improve leadership capacity;
- Leadership residency initiatives
- Leadership preparation academies
- Leadership mentoring

Research shows that strong school leaders have a powerful multiplier effect, dramatically improving the quality of teaching and raising student achievement in a school. Principals account for 25 percent of a school's impact on student achievement, which is significant for a single individual. Moreover, 97 percent of

teachers list school leadership as essential or very important for their career choices—more than any other factor. The bottom line is that school improvement simply does not occur without strong leadership, particularly in underperforming schools.

A [summary of research](#) on Title II program-funded strategies is available for review.

Allowable Activities

Title II funds can be used for the following activities:

- Providing high-quality, evidence-based professional development opportunities
- Developing or improving evaluation and support systems for teachers, principals, and other school leaders
- Recruiting and retaining effective teachers, particularly in low-income schools with high percentages of ineffective teachers
- Recruiting qualified individuals from other fields to become teachers, principals, or other school leaders
- Reducing class size to an evidence-based level
- Increasing the ability of teachers to teach children with disabilities effectively
- Increasing the ability of principals or other school leaders to support early childhood educators
- Supporting the instructional services provided by effective school library programs
- Developing feedback mechanisms to improve school working conditions
- Carrying out other evidence-based activities that meet the purpose of Title II

Non-Allowable Activities

- Hiring an aide/paraprofessional
- Purchasing instructional programs for students (e.g., licenses, software, curriculum)
- Purchasing food and/or beverages is strongly discouraged, except in unique circumstances such as a working lunch for professional development
- Providing salary and benefits for teachers, except in Class Size Reduction
- Purchasing materials and supplies not connected to professional development
- Purchasing equipment and/or technology (computers, iPads, etc.)
- Providing any direct reimbursement to a private school

PLEASE NOTE: Funds made available under Title II shall be used to supplement, not supplant, any other federal, state, or local education funds.

Title II funds are subject to an equitable services requirement. In short, this means districts must reserve funds to provide Title II services to eligible private school teachers and other educational personnel.

Additional information can be found on the department's [Title II webpage](#).

TITLE III

ONLY SCHOOL DISTRICTS SERVING AS A TITLE III FISCAL AGENT COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Districts receiving a Title III allocation need to complete the following narratives:

- Describe the effective programs and activities, including language instruction educational programs, proposed to be developed, implemented, and administered using Title III funds.
- Describe how the eligible entity will assist English learners in achieving English proficiency based on the State's English language proficiency assessment, consistent with the State's long-term goals and interim progress measures, and meeting the challenging State academic standards
- Describe how the eligible entity will promote parent, family, and community engagement in the education of English learners.
- Enter the contact information for any individuals within the district or consortium who should receive Title III correspondence.

Additional Guidance on Title III

All districts in North Dakota must implement the ND EL identification procedures. All districts with identified ELs must provide a high-quality language instruction educational program (LIEP) funded through state and local funds. Before being eligible for Title III funds or participating in a Title III consortium, districts must meet the core EL identification and program requirements, including:

- Identifying ELs using the ND Home Language Survey and the state-approved English language proficiency screening assessment (WIDA Screener) within 30 days of enrollment.
- Providing an evidence-based Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) for all ELs delivered by a qualified teacher.
- Fulfilling Title I parent notification requirements annually regarding EL identification and program eligibility.
- Ensuring ALL ELs annually participate in the state English language proficiency assessment (ACCESS for ELLs) and the ND State Assessment.

Uses of Funds

Title III funds must be used to supplement or add to EL programs funded with state and/or local funds, and Title III funds must be used to:

- Provide an effective LIEP that demonstrates success in increasing the English language proficiency and academic achievement of ELs;
- Provide effective EL-related professional development for classroom teachers, principals, administrators, and other school or community-based organizational personnel; and
- Provide and implement other effective activities and strategies that enhance or supplement LIEPs for ELs, including parent, family, and community engagement activities and strategies to coordinate and align related programs.

In alignment with district goals, Title III funds may also be used to:

- Upgrade EL program objectives and effective EL instructional strategies;
- Improve the instructional program for English learners by identifying, acquiring, and upgrading curricula, instructional materials, educational software, and assessment procedures;
- Provide tutorials and academic or career and technical education for ELs;
- Provide intensified EL instruction, which may include materials in a language the students can understand, interpreters, and translators for students;
- Develop and implement effective preschool, elementary school, or secondary school LIEPs that are coordinated with other relevant programs and services;
- Provide community participation programs, family literacy services, and parent and family outreach and training activities to ELs and their families;

- Improve the instruction of ELs, which may include English learners with a disability, by providing for the acquisition or development of educational technology or instructional materials, access to and participation in electronic networks for materials, training, and communication, and incorporation of these resources into curricula and programs; or
- Offer early college high school or dual or concurrent enrollment programs or courses designed to help ELs succeed in postsecondary education.

Additional information can be found on the department's [Title III webpage](#).

TITLE IV

ONLY SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACCEPTING AND UTILIZING TITLE IV FUNDS WITHIN TITLE IV OR TRANSFER TITLE IV COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Do not complete this section if your district comingles or transfers its Title IV funds to another allowable program (e.g., Transfer Title I, Transfer Title II, Transfer V).

Title IV Funding Priorities and Guidance

The primary purpose of Title IV is to improve students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity of states, districts, schools, and local communities to provide all students with access to a well-rounded education, improve school conditions for student learning, and improve the use of technology to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students. Every school district must conduct a needs assessment to determine needs to identify the intended goals and outcomes of the Title IV programs or activities: Well-rounded education for all students, Supporting Safe and Healthy Students, and Effective Use of Technology. After conducting a needs assessment, districts must target Title IV funds to meet identified needs. Title IV programs or activities must meet evidence-based standards and align to the levels of evidence as required by ESSA. (ESEA section 4108(5)(A), (B)(aa), (F)(ii).

Uses of Funds

Well Rounded

Offer well-rounded educational experiences to all students, which may include:

- Increasing student access and improving engagement in high-quality courses in STEAM and computer science, music and the arts, foreign languages, accelerated learning programs, American history, environmental education, or other programs that contribute to a well-rounded education
- Reimbursing low-income students to cover parts or all costs of accelerated learning fees
- School counseling: career counseling, training, financial literacy, guidance counseling
- Addressing student attendance and engagement
- Extracurricular engagement: chess clubs, student newsletter, student involvement in school activities
- Accelerated learning programs: accelerated exam expenses, dual credit, student coursework
- Programs and activities that promote volunteerism and community involvement

Safe and Healthy Schools

Foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievement, which may include:

- School-based mental health services, supplemental counseling
- Drug and violence prevention activities
- Health education/physical education activities and curriculums
- Bullying and harassment prevention programs
- Social Emotional Learning activities and programs
- Bullying and harassment prevention programs Prevention of teen and dating violence, stalking, domestic abuse, and sexual violence and harassment

- Establishing or improving school dropout and reentry programs
- School safety and crisis management activities
- Nursing and e-nursing services

Educational Technology

Increase access to personalized, rigorous learning experiences supported by technology by providing technical assistance to improve the ability of LEAs to:

- Identify and address technology readiness needs, including infrastructure and access (devices, access to libraries, connectivity, operating systems, software, related network infrastructure, and data security)
- Use technology consistent with the principles of universal design for learning to support the learning needs of all students
- Provide educators, school leaders, and administrators with the professional learning tools, devices, content, and resources to:
 - Personalize learning
 - Discover, adapt, and share relevant, high-quality educational resources
 - Use technology effectively in the classroom
- Provide students in rural, remote, and underserved areas with the resources to take advantage of high-quality digital learning experiences
- Develop or use innovative or evidence-based strategies for the delivery of specialized or rigorous academic courses
- Disseminate promising practices related to technology instruction, data security, and the acquisition and implementation of technology tools and applications
- Implement and support school and district-wide approaches for using technology to inform instruction, support teacher collaboration, and personalize learning
- Build technological capacity and infrastructure
- Develop or use effective or innovative strategies for the delivery of specialized or rigorous academic courses through the use of technology
- Carry out blended learning activities (must include ongoing professional development for teachers)
- Provide professional development on the use of technology to enable teachers to increase student achievement in STEAM areas

Spending Requirements (For districts with Title IV allocations over \$30,000)

By checking the box, districts assure they are meeting Title IV spending requirements of:

- at least 20% of Title IV funds on access to and opportunities to support well-rounded education, and
- at least 20% of Title IV funds on support safe and healthy students, and
- a portion of funds on activities to support the effective use of technology AND of this portion, no more than 15% (cap) can be used on technology infrastructure, which includes:
 - Devices
 - Equipment
 - Software applications to address readiness shortfalls
 - Blended learning technology software and platforms
 - Digital instructional resources
 - One-time informational technology purchases

PLEASE NOTE: Funds made available under Title IV shall be used to supplement, not supplant, any other federal, state, or local education funds.

Title IV funds are subject to an equitable services requirement. In short, this means districts must reserve funds to provide Title IV services to eligible private school teachers and other educational personnel.

Additional information can be found on the department's [Title IV webpage](#).

FISCAL GUIDANCE, POLICIES, AND RESOURCES

Consolidated Application Approval Process

- NDDPI personnel approve Consolidated Applications and use the approved applications to determine allowable uses of funds, budget approvals, and future contract amendments.
- Budgets will be created in WebGrants based on district intents to comingle (schoolwide process) and transferability requests after Consolidated Applications are approved and the USED releases final allocations.
- Districts receive contracts (grant awards) via WebGrants, and the Authorized Representative must sign before any claims can be paid.

Budgeting Process

- Use your strategic plan, estimated allocations, and Federal Title Program guidance to determine budget activities.
- NDDPI recommends using other tools to plan a detailed budget until final allocations are released and official budgets are created in WebGrants.
 - The NDDPI has designed a resource to help financial decision-making teams identify the best use of federal funds: [Funding Your Plan: Best Practices to Sustain Investments](#)
 - Includes concrete action steps school leaders can take to align funding with state policy priorities and promote sustainability.
 - Additional Resources:
 - [Return on Investment Planning Tool Instructions](#)
 - [Return on Investment Planning Tool Worksheet](#)
- Upon approval of the Consolidated Application and release of final allocations by the USED, budgets will be released with all funds awarded in the unobligated object code (950).
- Districts will receive grant awards, which the Authorized Representative must sign before any claims can be made.
- The budget form aligns with standard [object codes](#) to assist in budgeting practices
 - Use the guidance for planning purposes.
 - Descriptions will be required for all budget line items.

Tracking Federal Funds Guidance

The [Tracking Federal and Local Funds](#) document provides coding information to assist with tracking funds.

The school district's ledger sheets must match the approved budgets in WebGrants. Whether state or federal, every program funding source must be tracked separately. When districts submit financial reports to the NDDPI Office of School Finance, local and federal expenditures must be reported separately so the funding rolls up correctly into the appropriate categories. Under EDGAR and federal law, the NDDPI is responsible for ensuring that federal funds are expended in the categories in which they were approved. When local and federal funds are combined into one budget, the NDDPI cannot distinguish how federal funds are spent. The NDDPI staff will monitor school districts for compliance with this requirement during the school year.

Notes Regarding Object Codes

The NDDPI uses the North Dakota School District Financial Accounting and Reporting Manual ([NDSDFARM](#)) to determine the activities under each object code. District and school personnel need to review the following chart to familiarize themselves with the activities listed in each object code. For example, if a

school district submits a budget on the application with no funds for travel (object code 500) then decides to send a teacher to a conference, the district must submit a contract amendment and obligate funds into the travel object code (500) before the travel to the conference takes place. If a contract amendment is not submitted, districts jeopardize receiving reimbursement for this activity.

- **Coding Educator Stipends:** The object codes for stipends for staff to attend professional development activities are 110 - Certified Personnel or 120 - Noncertified Personnel (not 300). Benefits (object code 200) must also be paid when paying stipends. School districts can only provide educators with a stipend during non-work times; otherwise, it is considered double-dipping. A stipend to attend after-hour functions, work on their own time, or attend events during weekends or summertime is appropriate. Schools cannot provide a stipend if staff is already being paid for their time, such as attending a conference during the school year on a weekday.
- **Coding Equipment in Object Code 700:** Federal Title programs are required to label each item purchased with federal funds. All computers and technology-related purchases (computers, monitors, iPads, printers, cameras, iPads, SMART boards) must be labeled and inventoried, regardless of purchase price. In addition, federal Title programs must keep an inventory of all equipment and furniture items (filing cabinets, bookshelves, etc.) purchased with federal Title funds with a value of \$5,000 or more. The district must also ensure that all materials, supplies, equipment, and furniture (non-consumable items) purchased with federal funds, no matter the item's value, are labeled as purchased with federal Title funds. In addition, all equipment purchased with Title I funds for targeted assistance programs and private school programs must be located in and kept in the Title I room.
- **Coding Indirect Costs:** If the district has requested an indirect cost rate from the [NDDPI Office of School Finance](#), all Indirect Costs must be entered in object code 900. Equipment, unobligated funds, and funds not represented in the budget cannot be counted toward indirect costs.
- **Coding Unobligated Funds:** If the district has unobligated funds in the Consolidated Application, these funds must be coded to object code 950 – Unobligated in the program budget and the district accounting ledgers. Any funds listed under object code 950 – Unobligated cannot be expended on this line. To use these funds, the district must complete a contract amendment and move them to the appropriate object code based on how the district plans to utilize them.

Explanation of Object Codes

110	Certified Personnel – Salaries for certified personnel, including teachers and substitute teachers, and stipends to staff for attending workshops that are held after regular school hours.
120	Noncertified Personnel – Salaries for non-certified personnel, including aides, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, and secretaries.
200	Employee Benefits – Payments that are not part of gross salary made on behalf of employees, e.g., insurance, Social Security, retirement, unemployment compensation, Workers Compensation, annual leave, sick leave. School districts paying stipends to staff must pay benefits for those stipends.
300	Purchased Professional and Technical Services – Purchased services for which the district has a contract on file, including speaker fees, on-site professional development, auditors, consultants, etc.
400	Purchased Property Services – Repair of Equipment.
500	Other Purchased Services – Expenses for transportation, including mileage, meals, lodging, airfare, taxi fares, etc., for staff and students.
600	<p>Supplies and Materials – Supplies are defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tangible property that is not equipment. A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is less than \$5,000, regardless of the length of its useful life. • Expendable items that are consumed, worn out, or deteriorated in use: freight, books, school supplies, periodicals/subscriptions, software, software applications, food for parental engagement activities, snacks for after-school programs, etc. <p>These items acquired using federal funds must be labeled/tagged/inventoried, indicating the specific federal funds that were utilized.</p>
700	<p>Property & Equipment – Equipment is defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tangible property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost that equals or exceeds \$5,000. Note: These items will require prior written approval for Capital Expenditures SFN 61974 (in WebGrants). • Permanent fixtures such as equipment, furniture, and technology-related expenditures. <p>Equipment acquired using federal funds must be labeled/tagged/inventoried, indicating the specific federal funds that were utilized.</p>
800	Other Objects – Registration fees for staff to attend workshops, licensing and certification fees, and tuition costs for teachers.
900	<p>Other Use of Funds – Indirect costs are calculated by taking your total approved budget and subtracting any funds listed on the unobligated line and the equipment (object code 700). After subtracting the amount budgeted for equipment and the amount set aside as unobligated, multiply the difference by the indirect cost rate. This equals the maximum allowed for indirect costs.</p> <p>Note: When claiming indirect costs, the allowed reimbursement is calculated by taking the total expenditures claimed minus funds listed as unobligated and those claimed for equipment (700).</p>
950	Unobligated – Costs for funds available but not obligated into the district budget can be coded to object code 950. This object code is to be used only to budget these unobligated funds and should not appear as an expenditure code. Before the unobligated funds are spent, the district must submit a contract amendment and adjust the budget to move these funds into the appropriate object codes listed above.

General Fiscal Reminders

- Once the Consolidated Application Budgets have been approved, NDDPI staff will enter the grant information into WebGrants and issue grant awards. Further information will be provided with district approval notices.
- All Federal Title funds are paid to school districts on a reimbursement basis only.
- All expenditures must fall within the grant award period listed on the official grant award.
- Claims (requests for funds) and contract amendments (budget revisions) will be completed in WebGrants. Further guidance will be provided with district approval notices.
- It is imperative that the accounting ledgers kept at the school district's fiscal office match the approved budget.
- Make claims throughout the grant period.
 - School districts can only claim funds in an object code with an approved budgeted amount.
 - Funds must be claimed within 120 days of expenditure – 2 CFR § 200.305(b) subgrantees, including LEAs, must minimize the time elapsing between disbursement by the subgrantee and the transfer of funds from the State.
 - Dates of the reporting period of expenditures should be the actual dates in which expenditures were incurred
 - Money does not exist forever; pay special attention to the duration of each grant
- District fiscal year-end processes have changed in WebGrants:
 - The final Claim is made once all dollars are expended, and the grant has a \$0 balance
 - Detailed ledgers are required to be uploaded with each claim, including the final claim
 - Districts with required set-asides must complete assigned Set-Aside Reports
 - Title I: 15% limitation of funds and waiver for excess funds (available once every three years)
 - Title IV: Funds need to stay in the "bucket" in which it was initially budgeted for each program year

Contract Amendments

- Contract amendments for all Federal Title programs must be submitted through WebGrants.
- Districts that submit a contract amendment must describe why the revision is needed and receive approval from NDDPI staff before the district implements the revision.
- Business managers must take the approved contract amendments from the NDDPI and change the district's accounting ledgers to match the approved budget. Failure to do this will result in an audit exception, which could jeopardize Federal Title funding and reimbursement. School districts can amend federal program budgets by board approval during the school year (NDCC 57-15-31.1).

Potential Supplanting Violations

- Full-day Kindergarten: In 2007-2008, the North Dakota Legislature appropriated funds to support full-day kindergarten programming. Therefore, districts may not use their Title I dollars to fund a full-day kindergarten program.
- Student Performance Strategist: During the 2010-2011 school year, the North Dakota Legislature appropriated funding for and mandated that each district have one (1) total FTE "student performance strategist" for every 400 K-3 students. This position requires a North Dakota teaching license. The codes assigned for this position should be reported as 65-122-00097. Since this requirement is in state law, districts cannot use federally paid staff to meet this requirement, as that would be supplanting. Small districts may need to work collaboratively with other districts or their REA to share a student performance strategist.
- Summer School: Each biennium, the North Dakota Legislature provides funding through the state aid payment for summer school. Starting June 1, 2021, all K-12 students are eligible for state-funded summer school regardless of their academic status. Review additional guidance on the [Summer School](#) webpage.

- Districts using federal funds for summer school must ensure the federal summer school program is at a separate time from the state-funded summer school program or that a federal summer school program builds on or adds to a state-funded program for Title I students.
- The ND Century Code requires one FT counselor for every 300 students in grades 7-12 and, beginning the 2022-2023 school year, grades K-6. Title IV-A funds cannot cover the cost of a school counselor's salary when NDCC requires it, as that would be supplanting. It may be allowable if you supplement school counseling services and go above the NDCC requirements. Allowability will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- The USED Federal Title IV provided the following clarification regarding the use of federal funds and school nursing. "Federal Title funds could be used to pay for a portion of the school nurse's salary when they are NOT providing direct medical services. Medical services are listed as a prohibited use of funds in ESEA section 4001(b)." The NDDPI, the State School Nurse Consultant, and the ND School Care Manager developed [guidance](#) that will help districts determine direct vs. indirect medical services. Nursing services are based on students' and district needs and are, therefore, unique for each district. Districts should consult with their school nurse or nursing manager when determining this, as they are the experts in this area. Districts then determine the direct/indirect service percentages of the nurse/enurse time based on the services to be provided. Federal funds can cover an indirect percentage of the nurse's salary or a nurse contract.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Several offices in the NDDPI oversee Federal Title programs and the Consolidated Application process. The chart below outlines department staff and their expertise for each federal program to streamline technical assistance. Please reach out to the contacts below with any questions.

Topic Area	NDDPI Contact	Contact Information
General Information; Federal Title Programs	Lauri Nord, Program Administrator	lnord@nd.gov 328-2282
General Information; Federal Title Programs	Amanda Peterson, Director	amandapeterson@nd.gov 328-3545
Title I Program Information; Equitable Services	Angie Richter	amrichter@nd.gov 328-2287
Title I General Information	Shelley Thurow, Admin. Assistant	sjthurow@nd.gov 328-2958
Title I Schoolwide; Foster Care	Michelle Siegfried, Program Administrator	mlsiegfried@nd.gov 328-3544
Homeless; Neglected	Jen Withers, Asst. Director	jwithers@nd.gov 328-4612
Title I Early Childhood; Head Start	Carolyn Kueber, Program Administrator	cjkueber@nd.gov 328-1640
Title II General Information	Jane Gratz, Admin. Staff Officer	jmgratz@nd.gov 328-2292
Title II Program Information; Transfer	Ann Ellefson, Director	aellefson@nd.gov 328-2488
Title II Program Information	Brenda Ehrmantraut, Asst. Director	blehrmantraut@nd.gov 328-1809
Title II Program Information	Davonne Eldredge, Asst. Director	deldredge@nd.gov 328-4525
Title II Program Information	Taylor Olsen, Program Administrator	tlolsen@nd.gov 328-2629
Title II Program Information; RLIS/SRSA	Kate Waechter Program Administrator	kwaechter@nd.gov 328-2132
Title III General Information	Cami Bauman, Admin. Staff Officer	crbauman@nd.gov 328-2254
Title III Program Information	Sashay Schettler, Asst. Director	ssschettler@nd.gov 328-1876
Title IV General Information	Deb Pilon, Admin. Staff Officer	dpilon@nd.gov 328-2753
Title IV Program Information	Robin Lang, Asst. Director	roclang@nd.gov 328-2265