

On April 24, 2023, Senate Bill 2254 (SB 2254) was enacted into law, signifying a significant legislative development concerning educational improvement in North Dakota. SB 2254 addresses the specific circumstances of schools previously designated for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) within the state's educational accountability framework. In North Dakota, schools undergo periodic assessments, with CSI designation occurring every three years for severe challenges and annually for less critical issues. The most recent identification of schools requiring CSI intervention was in September 2022, with the next evaluation scheduled for September 2025. Upon the latter assessment, the provisions outlined in SB 2254, we have deemed “ND FIRST” (Fostering Improved Results for School Transformation), will become operational for schools flagged as CSI for consecutive evaluation cycles, necessitating enhanced support mechanisms and tailored strategies to ameliorate persisting educational challenges.

SENATE BILL
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Theory of Action

IF the ND FIRST teams reduce barriers through connections to partners and resources, THEN every ND FIRST team can achieve identified student outcomes. NDDPI's Theory of Action is grounded in a clear understanding of the challenges ND FIRST teams face and the opportunities that result from genuine continuous improvement.



Primary Goal

The primary goal is to increase collaboration and positive relationships with ND FIRST teams to reduce barriers and identify appropriate resources to help expedite the partnering school and district academic achievement for all students.



Primary Objective

The primary objective is to develop, in partnership, a robust intervention response to second-cycle Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools that improve student outcomes for all children.

ND FIRST Initiative Timeline



January 2024–March 2024:

NDDPI will communicate information to education stakeholders outlining the SB 2254 process, and a public comment period was available for North Dakota citizens to provide input. Responses and feedback will again be considered, and adjustments will be made to the draft policy.

September 2024:

CSI schools will be presented with data showing their overall growth and trends and will be asked to continue refining their change practices and improvement plans. NDDPI will provide a status update regarding SB 2254 policy and procedures.

May 2023–October 2023:

NDDPI engaged in consultation and feedback to receive input as it works to develop policies and procedures around SB 2254.

April 2024–August 2024:

Final drafts of the ND FIRST process overview and templates will be completed and shared with relevant education groups.

August 2025 – September 2028:

NDDPI identifies a new cohort of CSI schools based on accountability data. CSI schools will be presented with data that shows their overall growth and trends and asked to continue refining their change practices and improvement plans. Any CSI school identified in the second consecutive cycle in Fall 2025 is subject to the interventions described in SB 2254 and the official policy that will drive SB 2254 implementation.