



NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

ND FIRST Update for CSI Schools

January 2025



Fostering Improved Results
for School Transformation

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Improvement and Support



Asking Questions



- **Anonymous questions will be collected and responded to via the FAQ page on the ND FIRST website.**
 - You may submit a new form for every question or write several at once in the open response.
- **I will address any clarifying questions at the end or collect them for the FAQ.**
 - We will be sharing links from the presentation in the chat.



Purpose of Accountability

- The purpose of the ND accountability system is to provide statewide responsibility to all stakeholders to pursue the ND PK-12 Strategic vision **and to do the following:**
 - Provide transparency and public reporting of key performance and improvement indicators for all schools, districts, and the state;
 - Ensure all schools and districts are engaged in a process of continuous improvement;
 - Identify when and where desired results are not being achieved, prioritize which schools are most in need of support; and
 - Allocate resources and support services, increase oversight and engagement and elevate accountability for those schools most in need of support.



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PK-12 Education Strategic Vision Framework

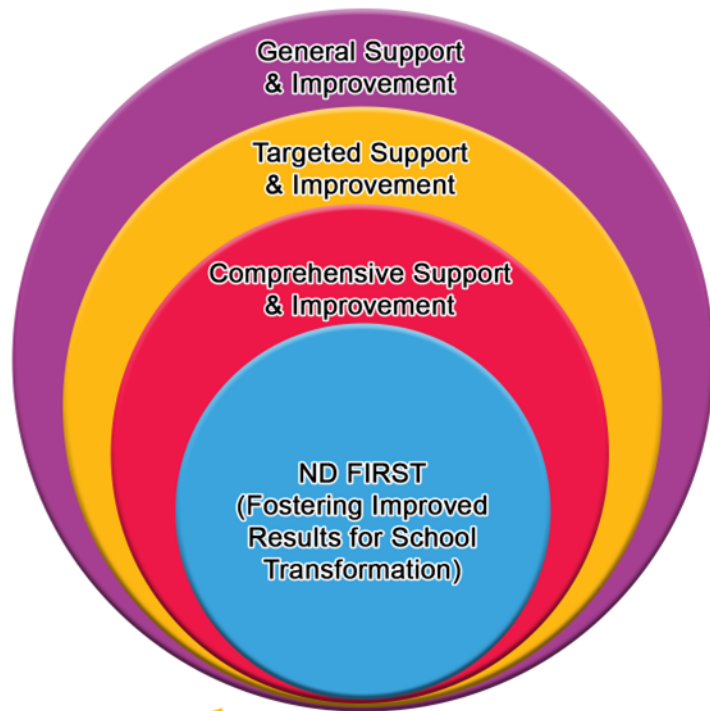
Our vision is that all students will graduate choice ready with the knowledge, skills, and disposition to be successful

We will make progress toward this vision by achieving these 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

We will drive improvement on these outcomes through focused effort within these strategic themes

- Quality early childhood experiences
- Support for safe and healthy behaviors
- Career awareness, exploration, and development
- Quality education personnel
- Quality student-centered instruction



Currently, North Dakota uses Cognia statewide for approval and as a system of improvement for all public schools.

All schools participate in continuous school improvement through the Cognia process.

Within North Dakota's System of Support:

- General Support and Improvement
- Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)
- Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)

Visit the [Insights Dashboard](#) for detailed information about any school in North Dakota.

NDDPI Internal Accountability Team



➤ Meeting monthly to continuously improve internal processes and fine-tune data collection and analysis

- As ND has increased transparency and access to data, so has the desire to ensure accuracy and maintain a strong focus on improving student outcomes
- Key Actions:
 - Review business rules.
 - Make recommendations for adjustments.
 - Enhance communication.



CSI Exit Criteria Clarification



Current Language in ESSA Plan:

Exit Criteria

- **A school may exit CSI status upon achieving:**
 - Scores that are above the bottom 5% of Title I schools for three consecutive years
 - A graduation rate that is 67% or higher for three consecutive years
 - Success in meeting established interim goals for three consecutive years for both academic achievement and graduation rates

NDDPI's business rules and updated language on the website:

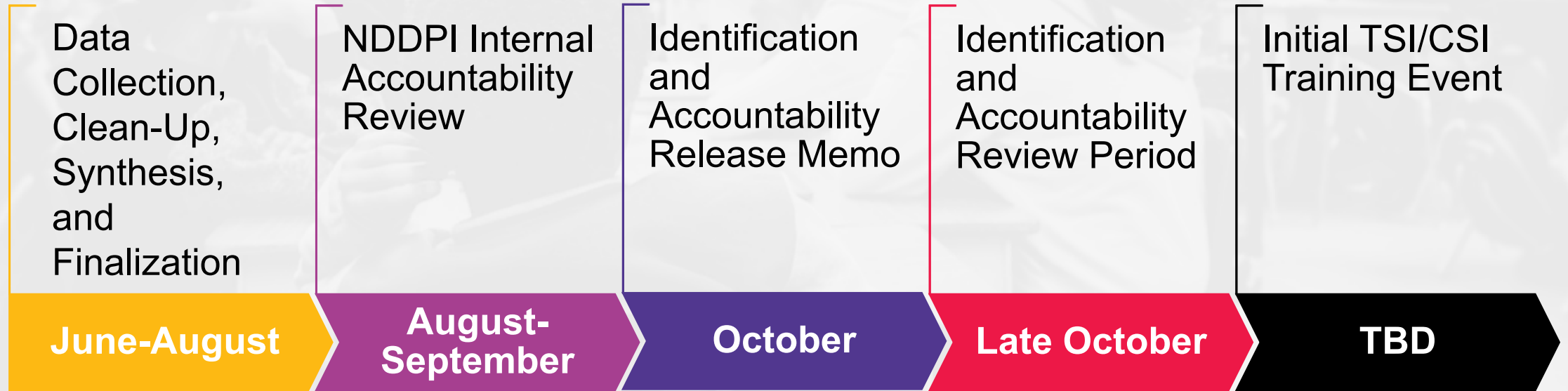
Exit Criteria

- **A school may exit CSI status ~~after three years~~ upon achieving:**
 - Scores that are above the bottom 5% of Title I schools ~~for three consecutive years~~
 - A graduation rate that is 67% or higher ~~for three consecutive years~~
 - Success in meeting established interim goals ~~for three consecutive years~~ for both academic achievement and graduation rates





Projected 25-26 Identification Timeline



SB 2254 = ND First

Theory of Action:

IF the ND FIRST teams reduce barriers and connect partnership districts to resources and IF the partnering district commits to the process, THEN every partnership district can achieve identified student outcomes. NDDPI's Theory of Action is grounded in a clear understanding of the challenges partnership districts face and the opportunities that result from genuine continuous improvement.

Primary Goal:

The primary goal is to provide a comprehensive system of support for second-cycle CSI schools and to improve outcomes for all students.



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Assessment and Review of Past Interventions

Collaborative Partnership Meetings

Collaborative Partnership Agreement Executed

Collaborative Partnership Agreement Implemented

Goal Review Process



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ND FIRST Advisory Team



- Meeting quarterly to refine templates, action plan, and ensure progress along the established timeline dictated by legislation
 - Key Actions:
 - Established consultation expectations.
 - Reviewed stakeholder feedback and consulted research to develop and refine project documents.

Public Comment



A virtual feedback session was held on March 27, 2024, hosted by NDDPI and facilitated by Child Trends staff. This session gathered insights from educators and the public to inform the development of the program supporting low-performing schools. Click [here](#) to read through the comments, responses, and NDDPI actions. This public comment informed the current documents provided on the website.

ND First Timeline



APRIL - AUGUST 2024

- Drafts of the process overview and templates were completed and shared with relevant education groups

JANUARY - MARCH 2024

- ND FIRST process communicated to partner groups
- Public comment period for ND citizens to provide feedback on the process

SEPTEMBER 2024

- CSI schools were presented with growth and trend data
- NDDPI provided a status update and final public comment period regarding ND FIRST process and procedures

ND FIRST Timeline (continued)



JANUARY 2025

- Drafts are publicly posted, and an informational update is provided to current CSI schools

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2024

- ND FIRST Advisory Team reflected and responded to public comments and feedback within the ND FIRST documents

FEBRUARY 2025 - SEPTEMBER 2025

- ND FIRST Advisory Team will continue to refine the project to prepare for the 2025-2026 school year
- Updates and announcements will be provided via the BLAST and the website

ND FIRST Timeline (continued)



FALL 2025 - SEPTEMBER 2028

- NDDPI identifies a new cohort of CSI schools based on accountability data
- CSI schools will be presented with data that will show their overall growth and trends and will be asked to continue to refine their change practices and improvement plans
- Any CSI school identified in the second consecutive cycle in fall 2025 will move into ND FIRST Partnership Agreement implementation





Updated Documents



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- **All documents are in draft form and are subject to revisions after review by legal counsel.**
- **Timelines and legal language will be vetted and adjusted as needed, with the final determinations made by the State Superintendent.**



ND School Improvement Process Map



- Clarifies that ND FIRST schools will not necessarily have to disrupt their current school improvement plans by introducing new metrics if evidence shows improvement
- Provides a better illustration of the increased support and oversight from the State as a school moves through ND School Improvement processes

ND FIRST Project Team Charter



- States clearly that root causes will be revisited to discern the primary factors inhibiting school improvement and identify assets that can be leveraged to address those opportunities
- Defines and outlines roles and responsibilities of key teams that will be working together to implement the school improvement processes and meet outcome goals

Collaborative Partnership Agreement (MOU) Template



- Demonstrates explicitly that local context is valued, and embeds stakeholder input throughout the process
- Outlines the progress monitoring expectations that goals will be reviewed at critical stages (i.e., 18- and 36-month intervals) to determine the next steps and to deploy any necessary interventions

Continuous Improvement



- It's important to remember that we will not know what this will look like until we go through the process together.
- A Research and Evaluation (R&E) team has been built into the process, and they will provide an external review of NDDPI's implementation of ND FIRST to ensure feedback loops and fidelity to the model.
- NDDPI remains committed to providing another layer of support to schools who struggle to meet student outcomes.

Next Steps for CSI School Teams



- Continue to monitor NDDPI communications.
- Continue to work on your local school improvement goals.
- Continue to make educational decisions in the best interest of students and your community.

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