

## ESSA IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

March 14, 2025

8:30 – 11:30 a.m. CDT

TEAMS

**Facilitator:** Amanda Peterson

**Note Taker:** Kassie Schaff

**Members Present:** Nick Archuleta, Amy Arness, Kirsten Baesler, Jessica Brandt, Ned Clooten, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, Tracy Friesen, Michelle Fuller, Cheryl Hagar, Julie Jager, Lisa Johnson, Rod Jonas, Tracy Korsmo, Marcus Lewton, Alyssa Martin, Sara Medalen, Maria Neset, Becky Pitkin, Randy Rice, Russ Riehl, Luke Schaefer, Wayde Sick, Sashay Schettler, Greg Carlson, Ann Ellefson, Donna Fishbeck, Lucy Fredericks, Joe Kolosky, Laurie Matzke, Mary McCarvel-O'Connor, Amanda Peterson, Ross Roemmich, Stan Schauer, Steve Snow, Adam Tescher, Jim Upgren, Amanda Wilson

**Members Absent:** Catherine Anderson, Levi Bachmeier, Heidi Budeau, Amber Cieslik, Aimee Copas, Amy DeKok, Jeff Fastnacht, Scott Faul, Robert Grosz, Brad Hawk, Andrew Jordan, Melanie Kathrein, Mike McHugh, Susan McPherson, Lori Nappe, Tomi Kay Phillips, Katie Ralston Howe, Lisa Symens, Jess Willard

### MINUTES

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**Welcome:** Supt. Kirsten Baesler welcomed the group.

#### **Agenda Item: Updates/Overview of Day**

- Amanda Peterson started the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the agenda. Acclamations were given to Laurie Matzke for her years of service leading this ESSA committee. Amanda has taken over lead responsibilities for this group.

#### **Agenda Item: Student Engagement Pilot - Dr. Ellie Shockley**

- A new Student Engagement survey will assess behavioral, cognitive, and emotional facets of engagement. There was a strong internal consistency across subscales, except for behavioral engagement in grades 3-6, which will be improved by adding high-performing items from the older students' measure and grouping reverse-scored items for clarity. Plans are underway to refine engagement levels and incorporate belonging as a possible fourth component, not used in accountability. Schools will be able to gain access to student-level data, enabling better support for students.
- A [draft survey](#) was shared for ESSA committee members to view the survey questions at all grade levels. Log in using any 10 digits. Collaborative efforts will follow to finalize scales and clarify methodologies, while maintaining a stable survey instrument.

#### **Agenda Item: State and Federal Updates - Amanda Peterson**

- Legislative Session: Resources such as The Capitol Tablet and NDDPI regular communication channels are available to share updates on educationally relevant bills with impacts on students, educators, schools, and districts.
- Assessment updates on 2024-2025 testing windows.
- Federal Updates: Supt. Baesler nominated to the Department of Education as Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE). NDDPI will keep stakeholders updated on state, local, and federal education impacts through trusted sources like the [U.S. Department of Education](#) (USED) and the NDDPI Messenger (formerly The Weekly Blast).

- NDDPI awaits federal program allocations for school year 2025-26, contingent on Congress passing an appropriations bill, as the current Continuing Resolution expires today.
- NDDPI is shifting to the USED method for allocating Title I funds and held a webinar on 2/27/25 to explain the changes. More details are available on the NDDPI [website](#).
- NDDPI released final drafts on interventions for second-cycle CSI schools to improve student outcomes. See [ND FIRST](#) website for details.

#### **Agenda Item: ESSA Subcommittee Work Groups**

##### **Aspirational Goals/ESSA Plan Crosswalk - Supt. Baesler**

- Purpose is to align the PK-12 Strategic Vision Framework/Aspirational Goals with ESSA accountability measures to improve communication on how state goals meet federal standards.
- The Teacher Cabinet gave insight on improving communication of the state's vision to better support educators and crafting impactful messaging for stakeholders. Proposed teacher ideas include sharing visuals of the strategic vision framework, leveraging School Improvement Teams for communication, and creating a visual to clarify stakeholder roles in achieving aspirational goals.

##### **Elementary/Middle School Accountability – Amanda Peterson**

- Shared that the purpose is to establish equitable accountability measures across elementary, middle, and high schools.
- Provided basic 2024-25 accountability facts on schools who received a report card, three-year trend of identified schools and exited schools.
- Devised seven ideas to achieve their purpose.
- Requested ESSA Committee members complete this [survey](#) regarding these ideas for possible future ESSA plan amendments.
- Provided a 2025-26 projected timeline for the ND Accountability process.

#### **Agenda Item: Choice Ready Update - Laurie Matzke**

- CDE Military Courses were approved within the Choice Ready Framework.
- State Scholarship changes for alignment.
- Changes to ACT and impact to State Scholarship and Choice Ready.
- Statewide ASVAB testing cancellations and nationwide concerns.
- Upcoming ND National Guard career fairs to increase awareness and enrollment.
- The Boys & Girls State program was reviewed by the Choice Ready Subcommittee. Agreed to be added to the Military Pathway guidance, addressing concerns about accessibility for all students.
- New higher resolution Choice Ready logo.
- Updates on the Choice Ready grants and status of SB 2234.
- Continue to show growth through focus on Choice Ready, utilize grants, involve teachers and parents, and continuously improve the framework.

**Agenda Item: CTE- Perkins Consolidated Annual Report - Mark Wagner**

- Provided a very brief overview of the [CTE- Perkins Consolidated Annual Report](#). Due to time constraints, the full presentation was postponed until the Fall ESSA meeting.

**Next Steps:**

- ESSA Implementation Committee membership confirmation.
- Choice Ready Subcommittee representation needed from school personnel.
- Complete [Doodle Poll](#) for the Fall 2025 ESSA Implementation Committee meeting.
- Attend a brief, 30-minute meeting at noon on 5/1/25 (meeting invite to follow), to discuss the student engagement pilot and the timing of the 2025-2026 survey.

**Closing:** Amanda Peterson made closing comments.

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:28 a.m. CDT