



**ESSA IMPLEMENTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
CHOICE READY ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 27, 2019 11:00 AM–12:00 PM**

AGENDA ITEMS:

11:00 am Welcome and Introductions

Laurie Matzke – Assistant Superintendent
John Alstad – Principal, Robert Miller
Jeff Fastnacht – Assistant Superintendent, Mandan
Shawn Kessel – Deputy Commerce Commissioner
Kristine Knorr – ND Afterschool Network
Sara Medalen – Teacher, Minot
Marilyn Orgaard - CTE
Kelly Pierce - CTE
Jerry Standifer – Principal, West Fargo/Elementary Advisory Cabinet
Ann Ellefson – Director, Academic Support
Greg Carslon – NDUS Research
Amanda Peterson – Assistant Director, Academic Support
Stanley Schauer – Assistant Director, School Approval & Opportunity
Matt Scherbenske – NDDPI Strategic Officer
Jim Upgren – Assistant Director, School Approval & Opportunity
Heather Tomlin-Rohr – Teacher, Jamestown

**Purpose of the ESSA Subcommittee on Choice Ready
Elementary/Middle**

- a) Discuss, research options, and come up with recommendations on a Choice Ready Elementary/Middle concept**
We want to consider how this should be addressed at the elementary/middle school level.
Should we compile recommendations/resources or make it a part of the elementary/middle accountability system.
- b) Report recommendations to the full ESSA committee**
The full ESSA committee meets twice a year. When the group has recommendations to share about our future work in this area, information will be shared with this group.
- c) Whatever is decided will not go into effect until at least the 2020-2021 school year**

Recap High School Choice Ready Concept

Reviewed North Dakota Choice Ready Chart. The first public report out on Choice Ready results is August 2019 when it will be posted to the Dashboard.

Reviewed High School accountability pie and its elements.

There are multiple measures to determine the quality of our schools.

ND and SD have a GED completer where credit is given to schools who follow up with students who have dropped out to get their GED.

We have also created a School Climate subcommittee to decide when we want to include this in our accountability system. This is in the plan but not date certain, so we have flexibility.

Reviewed Elementary accountability pie and its elements.

The concern is the heavy emphasis on the North Dakota State Assessment (NDSA). We could have more elements to determine quality. Of the 50%

that must be academic, it does not all have to be state assessment. Would need to stay with 30% state assessment. Could there possibly be some weight in an interim program to use NWEA or STAR. The selection process for assessment is very regulatory. Interim assessments such as NWEA would never meet the strict requirements to be allowed for accountability, therefore we use our current state assessment.

Most of our schools do not have 10 English Learners to report on therefore, 66% accountability is based on one test without universal strong support.

Would we want to include additional elements, so students are measured on more elements? If so, we could consider adding a Choice Ready element in the elementary/middle accountability pie.

Options for Subcommittee to Consider

a) Create best practices or recommendations for an Elementary/Middle Choice Ready concept

This subcommittee could focus on creating and developing support documents of things schools could do to assist students when entering high school.

b) Build Choice Ready into the Elementary/Middle accountability system

The elementary/middle only has two elements that count toward accountability. Do we want to have more elements and options? Data would be helpful to see which elementary schools are identified for Targeted and Comprehensive support which could drive this committee. Many in the field like the focus more on SEL skills and what are the programs schools are focusing on in this area and can we build this into the accountability system. What are schools already doing that they could get credit for? There must be a student level indicator. Make opportunities available to students but they must collect data on those participating in each.

Most schools in Targeted and Comprehensive support are elementary schools however, the question is the ratio of elementary schools versus high schools in the state.

Determine the ratio of elementary to high school.

Will discuss the issue regarding where the middle school should be.

c) Concerns with Opening State ESSA Plan

There are concerns with opening the state ESSA plan. This would give DOE an avenue to critique other elements that have already been approved for the high school. Are we going to be required to open our plan at some point? If so, we could take the opportunity to make multiple changes in the plan.

Share Resources

There are some good resources out there. Would be helpful to develop resources especially for the middle school to prepare those students for Choice Ready at the high school.

Action Steps

What direction do we see this committee taking? Do we want to wait to see the data to see which direction? Do we still want to create resources regardless of what data shows, to encourage and support schools and students?

- Reach out to schools, primarily middle, to see how we can support and what can be done to assist. Possibly create a survey to gather information.
- What is the level of understanding at the elementary principal level? Are they aware of Choice Ready and the accountability pie?
- Do we need to provide resources to inform? What do parents and teachers know about the accountability pies and Choice Ready options?
- Reach out to other states who have revised their plan to see if see how many have encountered issues when opening it. Did the DOE address other items that were already in the plan and require them to change? Would be good to have members from the parent involvement committee on this committee as well to provide input.
- Committee members who come across resources applicable to developing an elementary/middle Choice Ready model should email Laurie Matzke at lmatzke@nd.gov so they can be shared with everyone at our next subcommittee meeting.
- Review and compare the achievement of our elementary, middle and high schools. NDDPI will compile the results from the August accountability release. Will do a side-by-side between the elementary and high school to see the effect and to determine if Choice Ready influenced accountability and those schools identified.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm. Please complete [doodle](#) to determine date of next meeting.