## STARS Fact Sheet

**Revised 04/30/2021**

### What is STARS?

- **STARS** (the NDDPI **S**tate **A**utomated **R**eporting **S**ystem) is:
  - A custom data clearinghouse solution that implements the unique requirements for collection, aggregation, storage, distribution, and reporting of State and Federal Government mandated education data
  - A solution originally developed in 2006 with a goal of centralizing North Dakota’s K-12 education data and providing a consistent data repository for reporting
  - A collection of focused applications for data entry, data collection, and data validation from LEAs and other external stakeholders
  - Integrated with other NDDPI applications and systems to share and validate data, including ND Teach, Student Contracts, Special Ed Grant Application, ND Foods, and ND Academic/CTE Scholarship

### Why does STARS Exist?

#### Data Collection

**What data is collected by STARS?**

- **STARS** collects a diverse group of data:
  - Student-level enrollment, special program, and demographic data
  - District / School contact information
  - School calendar data
  - Licensed / Non-licensed personnel data
  - District / School financial data
  - Transportation data

**How does STARS get this data?**

- **STARS** collects data from a variety of sources:
  - PowerSchool via an automated interface for student-level data
  - Other student information systems via import / direct data entry for Districts / Schools that don’t use PowerSchool (e.g., private / tribal)
  - Specialized District / School systems for HR, Financials, and other Operations via import / direct data entry

#### Data Validation

**Why is data validation necessary?**

- Data is reviewed using **STARS** to ensure it is complete / correct for Federal and State reports
  - Imported / manually entered data is reviewed before acceptance
  - Data from District-specific instances of **PowerSchool** needs to be cross-validated with other District data to eliminate student-level duplication / discrepancies due to timing and other issues

#### Foundation Aid Process

**How does STARS impact Foundation Aid?**

- **STARS** is used by the NDDPI School Finance Office to facilitate school aid payments to Districts
  - **STARS** applications help validate that student enrollment data adheres to the specific business rules that define the school funding formula
  - Validated data is then used to create and initiate payments to Districts
  - Once the payment process is complete, Districts access **STARS** to review the details of their Foundation Aid payment

#### Reporting

**How does STARS facilitate reporting?**

- **STARS** contains applications and workflows for reviewing, approving, and generating final data files to be sent for State / Federal reporting

### What is on the Roadmap for STARS?

- A long-range Roadmap for **STARS** has been developed by NDDPI, with the following themes in mind:
  - **Make it easy** for Districts/Schools to provide their data, remembering that this is not their full-time job
  - **Ask** Districts/Schools only for data that is absolutely needed, when it is needed, and **only once**
  - Provide a solution that is intuitive to work within knowing that the user base ranges greatly
  - Serve as a clearinghouse for North Dakota K-12 education data
  - Make it easy for DPI to consistently review data from the District/School, remembering that this is not their full-time job
  - Provide a sustainable and secure technical environment for Districts/Schools and DPI to operate in