

## What is STARS?

- **STARS** (the NDDPI STate Automated Reporting System) 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
  - Licensed / Non-licensed **personnel** data
  - District / School **contact information**
  - District / School **financial** data
  - School **calendar** 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

### 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**

### 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

## 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