

Changes within the Division of Student Support & Innovation

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) utilizes a continuous improvement process to constantly assess and make changes in order to make improvements.

We would like to highlight the following changes within the Division of Student Support & Innovation (SS&I):

- **Office of Early Learning**
Valerie Bakken, North Dakota's Early Childhood Special Education Section 619 Coordinator, has been named the new Office of Early Learning's Assistant Director. Valerie has been North Dakota's Early Childhood Special Education Section 619 Coordinator in the NDDPI's Office of Special Education, since December 2015. On July 1, 2018, the Early Childhood Special Education Section 619 Coordinator position was transitioned to the NDDPI's Office of Early Learning, where Valerie will continue the role of Section 619 Coordinator, as well as take on the new duties of Assistant Director for the Office of Early Learning.
- **Office of Academic Support**
 - Amanda Peterson has joined the Office of Academic Support as an Assistant Director, effective June 2018. Amanda comes to us from the Bismarck Public School District, where she worked at Bismarck High School as the assistant principal. Amanda will coordinate many initiatives including; Building Tomorrow's Leaders, Vertical Alignment, and Personalized Learning, to name a few.
 - Matt Scherbenske has been named the Deputy Director of the Office of Academic Support. Matt will be assuming several new portfolios, one in particular is Computer and Cyber Sciences. Matt will oversee the design and development of Computer and Cyber Science K-12 Content Standards (ND will be the first in the nation with this level of combined standards), coordinate the Microsoft TEALS partnership, and facilitate K-12 Cybersecurity collaboration among and across state agencies.
- **Office of Safe & Healthy Schools/Adult Education**
We are pleased to announce that the Office of Safe & Healthy Schools/Adult Education will be joining the Division of SS&I, effective July 1, 2018. The mission of the Office of Safe & Healthy Schools/Adult Education aligns well with the other offices within the division, and we believe this will streamline services for North Dakota school districts. The Title IV program under ESSA is being moved from Academic Support to the Office of Safe & Healthy Schools/Adult Education. Robin Lang will be assuming the responsibilities to administer the Title IV program under ESSA.

These changes will streamline services for ND districts and provide better communication and services. If you have any questions regarding these changes, please communicate with your [contact person](#) in the Division of SS&I. The contact chart has been updated to reflect these reorganizational changes.