Continuous Improvement for All

North Dakota uses AdvancED statewide as an element for school approval as well as for improvement for all schools in the state. Our statewide partnership with AdvancED provides one common method for reporting in every school in the state, allows for a uniform comparison among school districts, as well as many other benefits. The state’s partnership with AdvancED focuses on continuous improvement, student performance, and stakeholder satisfaction. This process offers a framework and support system to help meet and exceed state and national requirements.

By using an effective external review process based on continuous improvement, the method of reporting has shifted from compliance to ways we can most positively improve each school. The NDDPI is a cohort member on each AdvancED site visit. Staff gain knowledge of the challenges each school has and are able to assist them in attaining their goals. This collaborative effort provides significant insight and is very beneficial for North Dakota schools.

ESSA and AdvancED
The North Dakota State ESSA Plan revolves around the prominent theme of continuous school improvement. Simply, this means, improvement for all: all educational systems, all schools, all administrators, all teachers and all students. This past year the NDDPI met with various stakeholders in both small subcommittees and a large committee to determine exactly how North Dakota schools will embark on the continuous improvement journey.

The NDDPI collaborated with AdvancED to develop a school improvement framework that supports a process of school improvement for all schools. As an accountability measure of school improvement for all under ESSA, all public schools in North Dakota will participate in continuous school improvement through the AdvancED process as a first category of General Support. Then, some schools will receive additional support through comprehensive and targeted support.

Three Types of Support:
1. General Support
2. Targeted Support
3. Comprehensive Support
A significant change outlined in our ESSA plan is all North Dakota public schools will **update their Improvement Plan annually** within the AdvancED platform. Previously, the Improvement Plan was updated once every five years.

Next, ESSA makes it a priority for states to **monitor and report on student subgroups**. Schools must provide data, outcomes, and progress on the following student subgroups: students in special education; minority students such as African American, Hispanic and Native American; students in foster care and that are homeless; and students who are English Learners (EL). All improvement plans within AdvancED will need to address subgroup performance.

The NDDPI is working on guidance to help North Dakota administrators implement the continuous improvement changes under ESSA. Guidance and a webinar will be available within the next few weeks.

Questions pertaining to School Improvement for All within the AdvancED platform can be directed to Joe Kolosky at 701-328-2295.

Questions pertaining to the additional Targeted or Comprehensive Support can be directed to Stefanie Two Crow at 701-328-2287.