



Kirsten Baesler
State Superintendent

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

600 E Boulevard Ave., Dept. 201
Bismarck, ND 58505-0440
Phone (701) 328-2260
Fax (701) 328-2461
www.nd.gov/dpi

To: North Dakota Educators
From: Laurie Matzke, Assistant Superintendent
Division of Student Support & Innovation
Date: December 6, 2017
Re: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Update

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI), along with our ESSA Implementation Committees, continue to roll out various aspects of our approved ESSA plan.

Please note the following key updates regarding the ESSA implementation process:

- **Choice Ready** – Choice Ready is a new component in the North Dakota accountability system to measure whether our high schools produce students that are ready for success upon graduation. The metrics outlined within the Choice Ready initiative are intended to measure growth for North Dakota high schools, as indicated by student readiness.

Recently, significant changes have been made to this element. Due to these changes, the NDDPI will be hosting a webinar to share critical information. The webinar is scheduled for January 11, 2018, at 10:00 am CST via Adobe Connect. **We strongly encourage all districts to have representation at the webinar.** Each district is asked to [preregister](#) for the webinar.

- **Student Engagement** – North Dakota has selected Student Engagement as the non-academic indicator in our accountability system. Joe Kolosky is leading this effort and has disseminated multiple [memorandums](#) over the past few months providing information and directions for giving all North Dakota students in grades 3-12 the Student Engagement survey between November 1 and December 8, 2017.

The survey closes Friday, December 8, 2017. This survey provides a valuable opportunity for each school's accountability to be measured on an indicator other than just test scores. Don't miss your opportunity to have the Student Engagement survey results included in the accountability dashboard to be released in February 2018.

- **Interactive Dashboard** – The NDDPI released the first iteration of our interactive dashboard on Thursday, November 30, 2017. The dashboard allows schools and districts to showcase and highlight strengths in their buildings while providing transparency to the public.

Note:

- ✓ This first iteration is not the accountability dashboard. The accountability dashboard will be released in February 2018.
- ✓ The NDInsights dashboard can be accessed on the [NDDPI homepage](#). Please take a few minutes to preview the interactive dashboard and check out your school's information!

- **High School Assessment/ACT Option** – In ESSA, there is flexibility to allow high schools to administer a locally-selected, nationally-recognized high school assessment in lieu of the NDSA. A recent survey indicates a significant number of districts would like to take advantage of this option and use ACT for their high school accountability assessment. North Dakota has applied to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) for a waiver to allow districts this option in the spring of 2018.

The request is a waiver of the requirement for the state to submit evidence demonstrating that the ACT meets the requirement of the USDE's peer review guidance prior to the 2018 administration of the ACT.

Note:

- ✓ North Dakota school districts may be given approval to administer the ACT in spring 2018 for accountability **only if this waiver request is granted by the USDE.**
 - ✓ [Electronic copy of state waiver application.](#)
- **ESSA Resources** – The NDDPI is also working to provide educational information on ESSA through the following resources:
 - ✓ [ESSA Webinar Series](#) – The department continues to work on a series of recorded ESSA webinars. Each available recorded webinar and PowerPoint presentation is hyperlinked.
 - ✓ [ESSA Q&A Series](#) – The department continues to work on a series of ESSA Q&A documents. Each available Q&A document is hyperlinked.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact [me](#) at (701) 328-2284 or your [contact person](#) in the Division of Student Support & Innovation.