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MEMO TO: North Dakota Educators

FROM: Laurie Matzke, Assistant Superintendent
Division of Student Support & Innovation

DATE: May 6, 2016

RE: Important Updates

Please note the following five important updates:

- 1) ESSA Planning Committee
- 2) Applications for Additional Program Improvement Funding
- 3) Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Transition Plan Posted
- 4) Small Rural School Achievement Program Deadline Extended
- 5) Title I 10% Set Aside for Professional Development

1) **ESSA Planning Committee**

State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler has formed an ESSA Planning Committee to assist in developing North Dakota's State ESSA Plan. Under ESSA, each state educational agency must create a consolidated State Plan to outline how the state intends to implement the new law. The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) will submit its state ESSA plan to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) in January 2017. The state ESSA Planning Committee will convene to prepare the state's application for a comprehensive plan. The first planning committee meeting will be held on May 17, 2016, at the State Capitol.

The ESSA Planning Committee member list is still being refined and updated and will soon be available at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/ESSA/PlanningCommittee/ on the NDDPI website.

2) **Applications for Additional Program Improvement Funding**

As announced at the ESSA Regional Workshops, schools and districts currently identified for improvement under NCLB are frozen and will remain in improvement for the 2016-2017 transition year. Schools identified for improvement are eligible to apply for program improvement funding. Information and guidance was disseminated at the regional trainings and can also be accessed at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/ESSA/Presentations/ on the NDDPI website. The program improvement documents are within the General Session II handouts. As a reminder, the applications are due on June 1, 2016.

3) **Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Transition Plan Posted**

As announced in recent USDE guidance for the 2016-2017 school year, states are not required to ensure that LEAs with schools identified as in need of improvement, corrective action, or restructuring provide supplemental educational services, public school choice, and the related notice to parents; however, states must ensure LEAs provide students eligible for supplemental educational services with interventions and develop and implement a one-year transition plan to support the orderly transition to the ESSA. North Dakota's transition plan is posted at www.nd.gov/dpi/uploads/1388/SESTransitionPlan.pdf on the NDDPI website.

4) **Small Rural School Achievement Program Deadline Extended**

At the ESSA Regional Workshops and in recent communication, the department announced that districts meeting the rural definition could apply for additional federal funding through the Small Rural School Achievement Program (SRSA). **The original application deadline of April 27 has been extended to May 31, 2016.** At present, the SRSA application is NOT up on the G5 site. The system was up in April, but has since been removed; the USDE is working to restore the application, so that districts can apply online and hope to have it available next week. A handout with additional information can be accessed at www.nd.gov/dpi/uploads/1398/REAP.pdf on the NDDPI website.

To receive an FY 2016 SRSA grant award, a district must submit an online application in the USDE G5 system, located at www.g5.gov. If you need assistance, please contact Shauna Greff at sfgreff@nd.gov or (701) 328-2958.

5) **Title I 10% Set Aside for Professional Development**

As you know, program improvement identifications under NCLB are frozen for the 2016-2017 transition year. At the Regional Workshops we announced that several states have posed a request to the USDE to make the 10% set aside requirement optional for the transition year just like they did for the SES provision. The USDE announced they will be releasing guidance on this issue indicating whether or not districts must adhere to this requirement for the 2016-2017 school year. As soon as an answer is received, we will share this information statewide.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this memorandum, please contact me at lmatzke@nd.gov or (701) 328-2284.