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To: North Dakota Educators
From: Laurie Matzke, Assistant Superintendent
Student Support & Innovation
Date: May 16, 2016
RE: Important Updates

Please note the following four important updates:

- 1) ESSA Planning Committee
- 2) 2016 NDDPI Fall Conference
- 3) Revised NDDPI Contact List
- 4) 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 ESSA Planning Committee will convene regularly 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 now available on the NDDPI website.

2) **2016 NDDPI Fall Conference**

It is with great pleasure that we announce the NDDPI will once again be offering high quality professional development to our North Dakota educators at the 2016 NDDPI Fall Educators Conference! Attached is a flyer that provides details such as dates, location, and planning opportunities. This year's conference is a collaborative event, as the NDDPI is partnering with multiple statewide entities that are all coming together to jointly plan this event. All partners are listed on the [flyer](#) posted on our website. Mark your calendar for this upcoming event!

3) **Revised NDDPI Contact List**

The Division of Student Support & Innovation has assigned a contact person to each school district in the state. The [contact list](#) was recently revised to reflect staff changes within the division. If you have questions or need assistance in any area, please connect with your contact person

4) 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 would release guidance on this issue indicating whether or not districts must adhere to this requirement for the 2016-2017 school year. Listed below is the language received from the USDE:

“Yes, an LEA must continue to set-aside 10% of its Title I, Part A allocation for professional development for schools in year one or two of school improvement status. LEAs that receive fiscal year (FY) 2016 Title I, Part A funds must continue to implement the interventions applicable to schools or LEAs in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring in the 2016-2017 school year in accordance with NCLB requirements as they existed in the 2015-2016 school year. These interventions include the 10% set-aside for professional development in schools in year one or two of school improvement status. Professional development is central to the requirement of supporting teachers to improve student achievement.”

If you have any questions regarding the information in this memorandum, please [email me](#) or call (701) 328-2284.