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NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

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To: North Dakota Educators  
From: Laurie Matzke, Assistant Superintendent  
Division of Student Support & Innovation  
Date: October 30, 2017  
Re: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

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With the approval of the North Dakota State ESSA Plan, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) is moving forward with the implementation phase of the ESSA plan. Our goal is to be transparent as we roll out the many provisions in the federal law.

Listed below are key updates regarding the ESSA implementation process:

- 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 recently disseminated three memorandums which provide information and directions for giving all North Dakota students in grades 3-12 the Student Engagement survey between November 1 and December 8, 2017.
- North Dakota State Assessment (NDSA) – North Dakota has a new vendor for the spring 2018 state assessment. Learn more about the NDSA Assessment vendor here.
- Effective/Ineffective Teaching Reporting – States must report on effective/ineffective teachers in North Dakota; we are reporting ineffective teaching practices. A reporting process, beginning in the fall of 2017, has been established. The MIS02 report has been reopened until October 30, 2017 so districts that did not complete the report or completed it in error can input and submit. If you have questions, need assistance with this report, or need to request an extension, contact Gail Schauer at (701) 328-2755.
- High School Assessment/ACT Option – There is flexibility to allow high schools to administer a locally-selected, nationally-recognized high school assessment in lieu of the NDSA. Bonnie Weisz recently disseminated a memo with a link to a survey. All districts need to have one person complete the survey to indicate whether the district will give the NDSA to students in grade 10 or the ACT to students in grade 11 for accountability in the spring of 2018.

Please note the following clarification on this topic:

- ✓ **Three-year commitment** – Originally, NDDPI had the understanding that regardless of whether districts elected to give the NDSA or the ACT, a three-year commitment would be required. We posed the question to the U. S. Department of Education (USDE) and were informed that there is no federal requirement to have a three-year commitment, although it is recommended.
- ✓ **ACT approval process** – A Dear Colleague Letter released by the USDE on May 15, 2017, outlines the process for states and districts wanting to exercise the provision within ESSA to give the ACT in lieu of the state assessment. As you can see from reading the letter, it is a lengthy and cumbersome approval process. The NDDPI intends to submit a waiver requesting authority to delay the peer review process until after the assessment occurs in the spring of 2018.

ND School for the Deaf/RCDHH  
Devils Lake, ND  
(701) 665-4400

ND State Library  
Bismarck, ND  
(701) 328-2492

ND Vision Services/School for the Blind  
Grand Forks, ND  
(701)795-2700

- College Ready English and Math (CREAM)/College Lab for English & Math (CLEM) – Schools that do not have any seniors participating in CREAM/CLEM are missing out on a tremendous opportunity. Learn how these two programs can help North Dakota seniors graduate choice ready.
- School Dashboard/Reporting – Under No Child Left Behind, in addition to the AYP reports, the NDDPI created report cards/profiles for all schools and districts. These lengthy PDF documents with a multitude of data were typically available in the fall each year. These report cards/profiles will now be part of an interactive dashboard that is being created for all public schools and districts in the state. The first iteration of this dashboard is scheduled to go live November 30, 2017. North Dakota has a four-phased approach for releasing data through the dashboard.
- ESSA Resources – The NDDPI is also working to provide educational information on ESSA through the following resources:
  - ✓ ESSA Webinar Series – The department is working on a series of recorded ESSA webinars. Once each of the recorded webinars and PowerPoint presentations are available, they will be hyperlinked.
  - ✓ ESSA Q&A Series – The department is working on a series of ESSA Q&A documents. Once each of the Q&A documents is available, they will be hyperlinked.
  - ✓ NDCEL ESSA Presentation – A link to my PowerPoint presentation at the recent NDCEL conference is provided if anyone would like to use it to update your local stakeholders on ESSA.

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.