

ESSA IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

December 16, 2024
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM CT
MS Teams

Facilitator: Laurie Matzke

Note Taker: Kassie Schaff

MINUTES

Welcome: Supt. Baesler welcomed the group and provided opening comments.

Presentations:

- **ESSA Meeting Updates/Overview – Laurie Matzke**, Assistant Superintendent, highlighted the topics to be addressed on the agenda this afternoon.
- **Student Growth for 2025 Accountability – Stan Schauer**, the Director of the Office of Assessment, summarized the impact of the transition from NDSA to ND A+. Standard setting in mid-August may delay accountability results.
- **Reports on ESSA Subcommittees**
 - **Unique Schools Accountability – Amanda Peterson**, the Director of Educational Improvement and Support, presented that this subcommittee will create a process for holding "unique" schools accountable while creating a fair system for all ND schools. Next steps include further research, ongoing feedback consideration, and updates to the ESSA Committee.
 - **Elementary/Middle School Accountability – Amanda Peterson** presented that this subcommittee aims to ensure equitable accountability for all school levels. Feedback and survey recommendations include expanding assessment measures, incorporating workforce readiness, rethinking growth measurement, and enhancing equity. Next steps involve bringing their recommendation to the ESSA committee meeting in March.
 - **Choice Ready/Military – Kaitlyn Allen and CW4 Jess Willard** suggested changes to the Choice Ready framework and guidance visual that will offer more choices for students entering this pathway. The committee voted unanimously to approve the change.
 - **Aspirational Goals – Laurie Matzke** mentioned that a workgroup has been created and the first meeting has not yet been held but is scheduled. Therefore, there is nothing to report currently.
- **Student Engagement Pilot – Steve Snow** reported on issues with the current survey's administration. Non-proprietary questions are needed for a new vendor. Pilot districts will run an engagement survey.

- **Choice Ready/Compass – Patrick Mineer** from Compass/Golden Path Solutions provided updates on supporting the four-year rolling plan within the Choice Ready Framework outlining options and highlighting next steps.
- **Teacher Shortage**
 - **Educator Pathway – Mary McCarvel-O’Connor**, Director of the Office of Specially Designed Services presented on The Educator Pathway Program which allows high school students to earn dual credit towards graduation and college while exploring teaching careers and offers certification for Special Education Paraprofessionals.
 - **GYO Updates – Laurie Matzke** updated the committee on the following four Grow Your Own programs: RAP-T, SB 2032, Educators Rising and Lead Teacher.
 - **General Education Para Certificate – Joe Kolosky**, Director of the Office of School Approval and Opportunity, gave an overview of this opportunity that aims to attract ND high school students to teaching by completing approved CTE or General Education courses, and how to apply.
- **State Scholarship – Jim Upgren**, Assistant Director of the Office of School Approval and Opportunity provided several proposed updates to the state scholarship potentially impacting Choice Ready that will be addressed during the 2025 ND Legislative session.
- **Federal Updates – Laurie Matzke** provided updates to the committee on federal funding and a continuing resolution from Congress. She shared some visuals from CCSSO regarding FY 2025 applications and incoming GOP party platform and NDDPI’s watchful approach.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Doodle Poll for Spring 2025 ESSA Committee meeting forthcoming.
 - ESSA subcommittees continue to meet and provide updates and recommendations.
 - Watch for rollout of the new state and federal administrative priorities.

Meeting adjourned: 3:58 PM, Assistant Superintendent Laurie Matzke and others made closing comments.