

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Fargo, North Dakota, showing a mix of urban buildings, green spaces, and a river with a bridge. The image is partially obscured by a white rectangular area containing the title.

# Federal Updates

**Amanda Peterson**  
Director  
Educational Improvement and Support

June 19, 2025



[nd.gov/dpi/](https://nd.gov/dpi/)

# Today's Topics

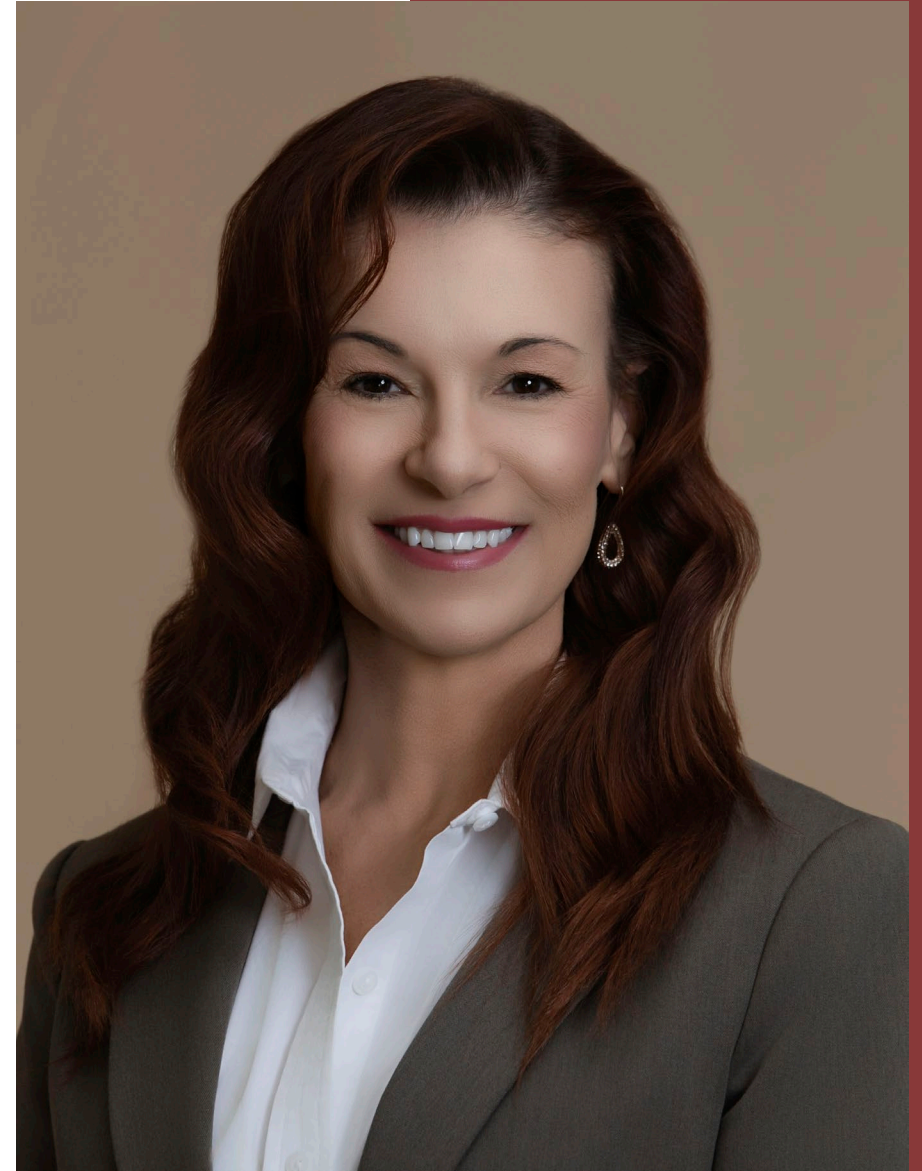
- ✓ Federal Landscape
- ✓ 2025-2026 (FY25) Allocations
  - ✓ Title I Formula Update
- ✓ 2025-2026 Consolidated Application Process
- ✓ 2026-2027 (FY26) Appropriations
- ✓ Funding Your Plan
- ✓ 2025-2026 Accountability Process
- ✓ Communication Channels

# Federal **Landscape**

# Congratulations!

## MEET THE NOMINEE, KIRSTEN BAESLER

- ✓ Superintendent Kirsten Baesler was nominated to serve as the U.S. Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education (USED) on February 14, 2025.
- ✓ Baesler's nomination was approved on May 22, 2025, by the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP).
- ✓ It will now move to the full Senate for consideration, but a final date has yet to be announced.
- ✓ She will resign her current position upon Senate confirmation.
- ✓ Governor Armstrong will appoint her successor, who will serve until the 2026 general election, which will determine who fills the remaining two years of Baesler's term.





# ESSER Late Liquidations

- ✓ On March 28, 2025, the Trump administration announced that states must reapply for previously approved ESSER Late Liquidation projects.
- ✓ USED has only approved about 25% of states' projects.
- ✓ Projects that provide direct academic support to students have been approved, while teacher training, construction, instructional materials, mental health services, research, etc., have been denied.
  - ✓ ND had four projects approved totaling **\$946,356** (Amira, Choice Ready student opportunities, after-school programming, and technology and workforce readiness).
  - ✓ Seven projects were denied, totaling **\$931,473**.
- ✓ ND is working through other funding sources and canceling planned work to accommodate the denials.



# FERPA Update

- ✓ On March 28, 2025, the USED required states to reaffirm the enforcement of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), clarify current practices, and outline ongoing efforts.
- ✓ Beginning in the 2025–2026 school year, NDDPI will collect district-level FERPA and PPRA compliance data through the Annual Compliance Report.
- ✓ NDDPI provided clarity around some common misinterpretations of FERPA:
  - ✓ FERPA does not preclude parental access to student information when permissible under the law.
  - ✓ Disclosures to military recruiters, education researchers, and data-sharing partners are allowable.
  - ✓ The frequently cited “n-size of 10” is not a FERPA requirement but a state-level threshold for public reporting, used to prevent public student re-identification and does not restrict the sharing of FERPA-protected data with authorized entities under appropriate safeguards.



# Title VI Assurances

- ✓ This past spring, the USED reaffirmed expectations for K-12 schools surrounding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- ✓ Title VI states, "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."
  - ✓ [Dear Colleague Letter](#) (February 14, 2025)
  - ✓ [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (February 28, 2025)
  - ✓ [USED Press Release Requiring Certification](#) (April 3, 2025)
- ✓ USED required NDDPI to collect district certifications within ten days, and all ND districts complied.



# Grant Priorities

## USED ANNOUNCES SECRETARY MCMAHON'S SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT PRIORITIES

- ✓ On May 20, 2025, Secretary McMahon announced her first three [proposed priorities for ED discretionary grant funding](#):
  1. evidence-based literacy,
  2. expanding education choice, and
  3. returning education to the states.
- ✓ Once finalized, USED will use these priorities in grant competitions going forward.
- ✓ ND would potentially be interested in all three of these priority areas.

# 2025-2026 (FY25) **Allocations**



# What is going on with allocations?

- ✓ Allocations for all federal programs have been significantly delayed.
- ✓ To date, NDDPI has received estimated Title I, Part A, IDEA, Title IV, Part A, Assessment, Adult Education, Homeless, and Neglected and Delinquent allocations.
- ✓ The majority of the allocations have been relatively stable/level from last year.

# North Dakota sees Title I, Part A Reduction

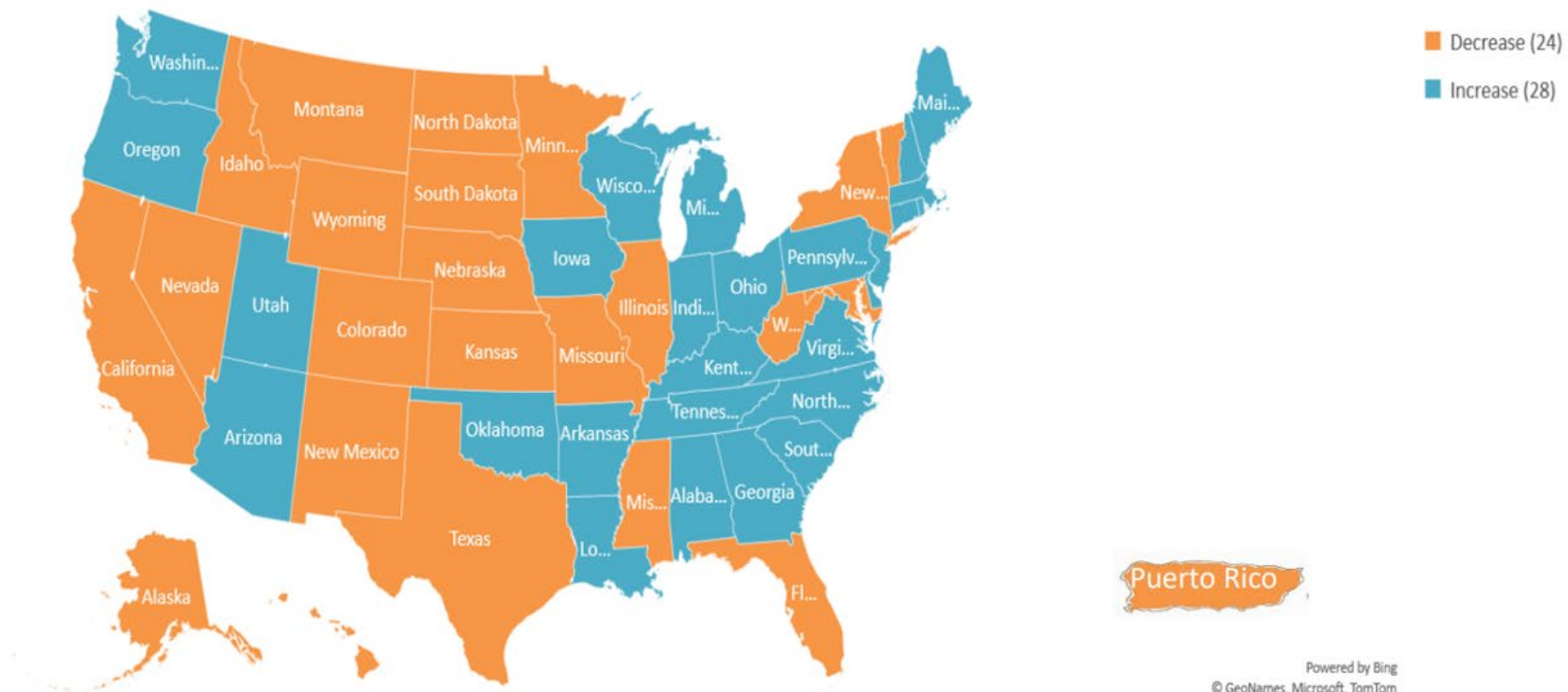
Due to poverty changes at the national level, ND did see an 8% reduction this year, unrelated to the Title I formula update.

As the state becomes more prosperous, supplemental federal funds based on poverty diminish.

ND sees a \$4.3 million reduction, primarily in School Improvement funds. This will affect how TSI/CSI grants are awarded.

# 2023 Census poverty shares vs. 2022 Census poverty shares

Changes in State Poverty Shares



# Allocations Update

- ✓ Find estimated allocations here: [Estimated 2025-2026 Federal Title Allocations for Public Schools](#)
- ✓ To date, NDDPI has yet to receive federal grant awards or estimated allocations for the upcoming school year for several programs, including competitive State Development grants, such as [ND CLIMBS](#) and [GRAD 701](#).



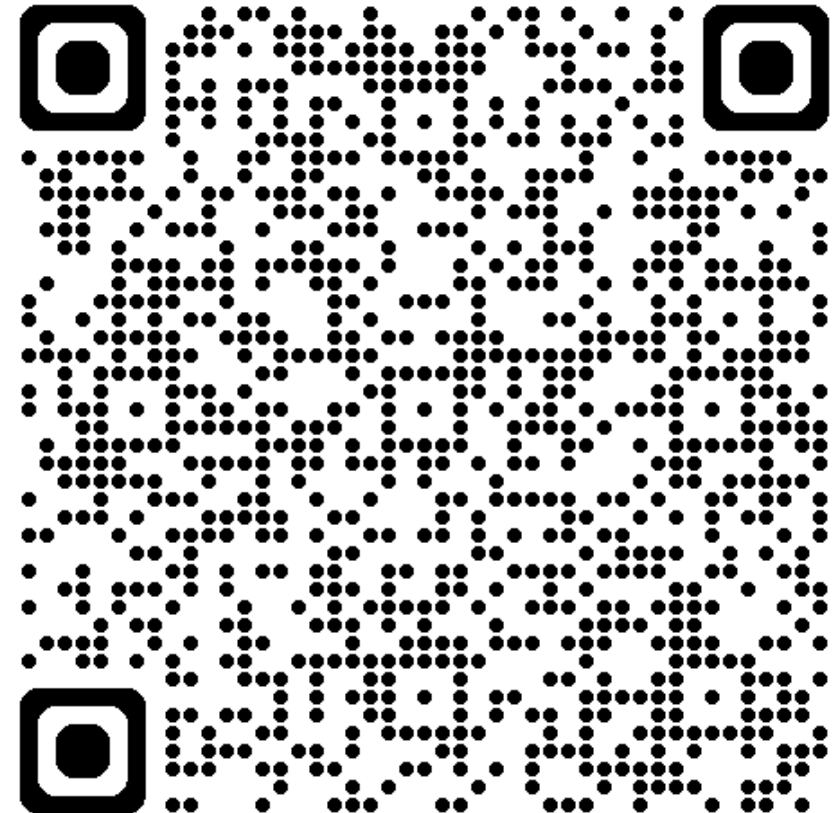
Program	2020-2021 Final	2021-2022 Final	2022-2023 Final	2023-2024 Final	2024-2025 Final	2025-2026 (Estimated)
<b>Title I, Part A</b> Improving Academic Achievement	\$40,357,234	\$43,267,055	\$45,823,193	\$49,331,698	\$48,119,203	\$46,421,850
<b>Title I, Part A</b> School Improvement (7% set-aside)	\$2,825,007	\$3,031,681	\$3,207,624	\$3,161,806	\$3,263,698	\$1,140,725
<b>Title I, Part B</b> State Assessment	\$3,489,639	\$3,498,894	\$3,509,712	\$3,512,028	\$3,518,245	\$3,518,245
<b>Title I, Part C</b> Education of Migrant Children	\$545,709	\$630,886	\$681,073	\$727,318	\$739,501	TBD
<b>Title I, Part D Subpart 1</b> State Agency (YCC)	\$86,366	\$51,502	\$64,673	\$64,005	\$38,199	\$38,418
<b>Title I, Part D Subpart 2</b> Neglected & Delinquent	\$406,703	\$386,444	\$367,121	\$348,765	\$331,327	\$314,761
Education for Homeless Youth	\$253,750	\$273,934	\$293,219	\$341,261	\$363,230	\$334,369
<b>Title II, Part A</b> Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High-Quality Educators	\$10,298,533	\$10,421,077	\$10,671,833	\$10,002,947	\$9,985,017	TBD
<b>Title III</b> Language Instruction	\$555,873	\$533,791	\$589,129	\$610,995	\$635,512	TBD
<b>Title IV, Part A</b> Student Support & Academic Enrichment	\$5,839,158	\$5,887,415	\$6,176,960	\$6,326,568	\$6,326,558	\$6,358,350
<b>Title IV, Part B</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning	\$6,123,389	\$6,172,398	\$6,319,398	\$6,515,398	\$6,515,398	TBD
<b>IDEA B, 611</b>	\$34,006,119	\$34,969,508	\$35,570,035	\$38,391,273	\$38,970,645	\$38,880,274
<b>IDEA B, 619</b>	\$858,335	\$872,429	\$866,322	\$901,424	\$901,424	\$901,424
<b>SRSA</b> , Rural Education	\$1,357,937	\$1,224,442	\$1,302,145	\$1,099,864		\$3,851,019
<b>RLIS</b> , Rural Education	\$109,983	\$97,837	\$136,538	\$135,812	\$248,041	\$127,735

# Title I Funding Formula Change

# Understanding the Title I Formula

## HELPFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

- [Title I Part A](#)
- [General Title I Requirements | North Dakota Department of Public Instruction](#)
- [Title I Funding | North Dakota Department of Public Instruction](#)



# Why USED Method?

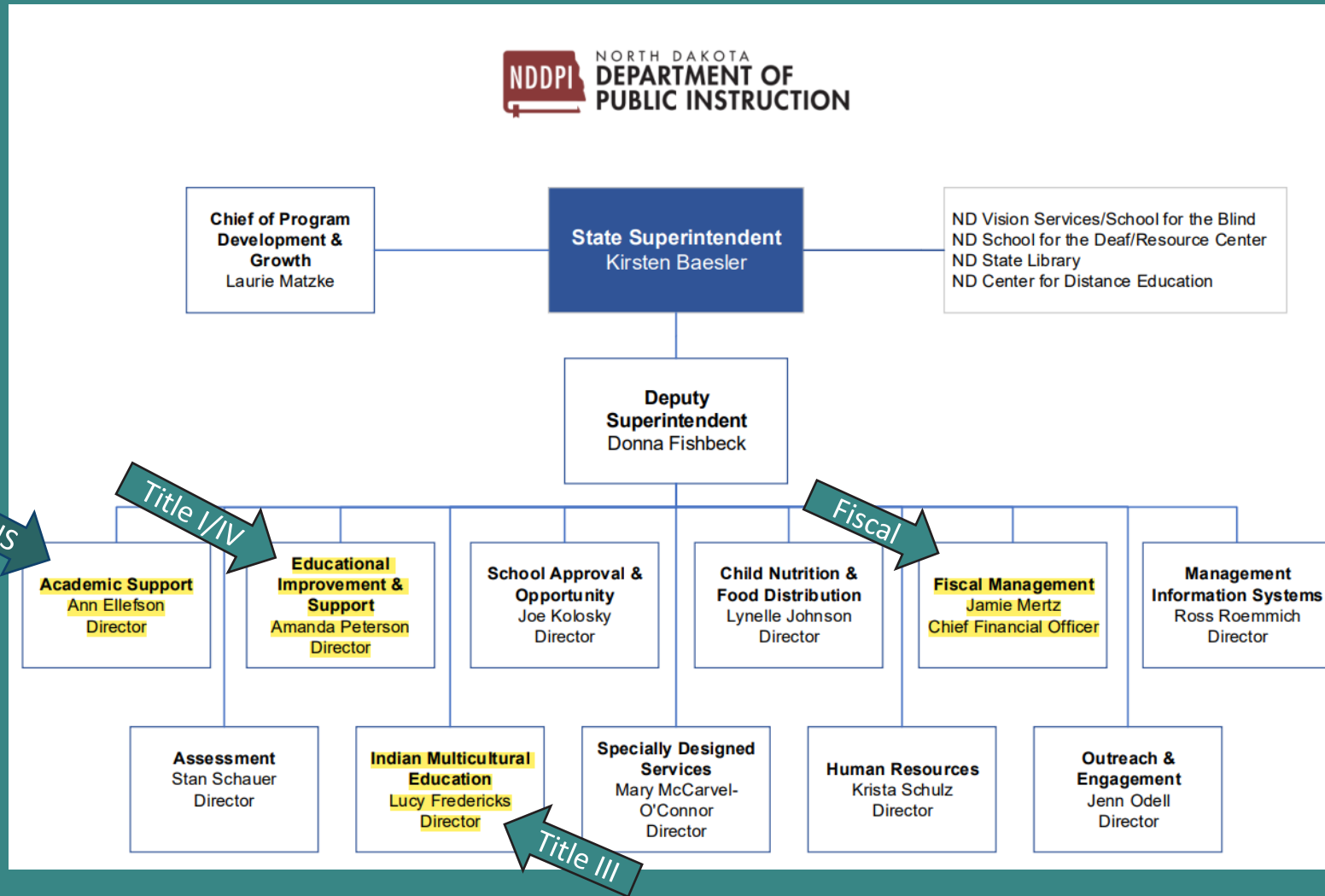
- ✓ Ensures transparent and equitable funding through a nationally recognized, uniform allocation methodology.
- ✓ Relies on consistent, reliable data and objective criteria rather than variable state-specific formulas.
- ✓ Directs resources based on key factors such as poverty rates, population size, and per-pupil expenditures while supporting federal oversight and compliance.



2025-2026

**Consolidated Application**

# Federal Title Programs are administered by several NDDPI offices



# Federal Title Program Guidance - Alignment

- Districts must **prioritize** the distribution of funds to schools that:
  - have the greatest needs (as determined by the district),
  - have the highest percentages or numbers of low-income children,
  - are identified for targeted support, and
  - are identified as a comprehensive support school OR are identified as a persistently dangerous school.
- **Necessary and Reasonable:** All costs charged to federal education grants must be necessary and reasonable, considering the amount of money being spent
- **Included in Application:** Activities supported by Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, and Transfer funds must be consistent with the district's application as well as data and needs
- **Evidence-Based:** ESSA requires investments to be spent on activities that are supported by evidence and are demonstrated to be effective



# CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION APPROVAL PROCESS

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NDDPI personnel approve Con App narratives and use approved applications to determine allowable uses of funds, budget approvals, and future contract amendments.

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Budgets will be created in WebGrants based on intents to comingle (schoolwide process) and transferability requests after the Con App narrative is approved **and final allocations are released by the USED.**

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Districts receive Contracts (i.e., grant awards) via WebGrants, and the Authorized Representative must sign before any claims can be paid.



# **“Anticipated” Consolidated Application Process Timeline Subject to Adjustments based on USED Guidance and Communications**

**April 21 – Intent to Apply opens in WebGrants**

*•Note: Consultation with stakeholders must occur before making the decision to Transfer or Comingle.*

**May – Estimated allocations typically released by the USED**

*•As part of the strategic planning process, districts conduct a Needs Assessment to determine where resources should be directed based on a variety of data.*

**May 20 – Intent to Apply due – Districts complete to indicate whether funds are needed**

*•Use estimated allocations to determine potential uses of funds from each program to support the strategic plan.*

**May – Consolidated Application narrative opens in WebGrants**

**Last Thursday of June – Consolidated Application narrative due**

*•Use the above strategic planning and intended use of funds to complete the narrative outlining where resources will be directed and the processes that support the district's decisions.*

**July – Final allocations are typically released by the USED**

**July – Consolidated Application budgets open in WebGrants AFTER Final Allocations are released**

**Last Thursday of August – Consolidated Application budgets due**

*•Note: The NDDPI only requires school board approval of the application itself. If a district's school board needs to approve Federal Title budgets, minutes do not need to be submitted.*

**Mid-October – Anticipate all budgets will be approved**

*•Districts that will be monitored for the 2025-2026 school year will be notified in late October.*

# Completing the ConApp in WebGrants

## Step 1

### Intent to Apply

Due May 20

## Step 2

### Narrative

~~Due June 26~~

**EXTENDED to July 17!**

## Step 3

### Budget

Due last Thursday of August  
August 28, 2025

***(Dependent on Final Allocations)***

# Supplement, Not Supplant

## Title I

- Districts must demonstrate that the methodology they use to allocate state and local funds to schools provides each Title I school with all the state and local money (or resources) it would receive if it did not participate in the Title I program
- If the activity was provided in prior years with non-federal funds or if the activity is provided to non-Title I students with non-federal funds, supplanting does not apply to uses of Title I funds in a schoolwide program.

## Titles II, III, and IV

Title II, III, and IV, supplanting is generally presumed when:

- A district uses Title II, III, or IV funds to pay for an activity that is required by state, local, or other federal law or policy.
- A district uses Title II, III, or IV funds to pay for an activity it supported with state or local funds the year before.
- A district may overcome a presumption of supplanting if it has written documentation (such as legislative, budget, or other materials) that it does not have the funds necessary to implement the activity and would not carry out the activity absent Title II, III, or IV funds.
- Given the first presumption above, districts may not use Title III funds to meet their legal obligations to ensure English learners can meaningfully and equally participate in educational programs and services.

# NEW SECTION: STAFFING

- ✓ Increasingly, federal funds are being used for personnel needs. While this can be allowable, more information is needed to justify the expense and prove supplement, not supplant.
- ✓ If a district is planning to budget federal funds for staff, this new section must be completed.

Staffing

Save Form

Add a row for each staff member paid with federal funding (Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, Transfer, Comingle Title I). If districts have a large number of staff members, there is an option below to upload a compiled spreadsheet of staff rather than adding rows.

Position/Role:

Location:

FTE:

Title Program Funding Source:

Class-Size Reduction:

Yes

No

Save Form

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Staffing Upload

Save Form

If the district has a large number of staff members paid with federal funding (Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, Transfer, Comingle Title I), upload a compiled staff spreadsheet in place of adding staff in the table above.

District Staff List:

Select file

# Annual Requests for an Indirect Cost Rate

- NDDPI determines the indirect cost rates for each district, REA, Special Education Unit, etc., that submits a request annually for an indirect cost rate when submitting their LEA financial report in STARS.
- The LEA financial report is due September 15th each year.
  - For example, the 2025-2026 rate is calculated using the 2023-2024 financial report submission.
  - A school district must select “yes” to have an indirect cost rate calculated.

The diagram illustrates the process of accessing the Indirect Cost Rate report. On the left, a sidebar menu titled 'Sections' lists 'School District Financial Report', 'Signatures', 'Indirect Cost Rate' (highlighted in purple), 'School Financial (ESSA)', and 'School Safety and Security Measures'. A large blue arrow points from the 'Indirect Cost Rate' menu item to a central panel. This panel, titled 'School District Financial Report 2023 - 2024', shows a 'Status: NOT SUBMITTED' and a 'Sections' list with 'School District Financial Report', 'Signatures', and 'Indirect Cost Rate' (highlighted in purple). To the right of this panel is the actual report form. The form's breadcrumb trail is 'STARS Home > School District Financial Report > Indirect Cost Rate'. The main heading is 'Indirect Cost Rate Report'. Below it is the question 'Does the school district request an indirect cost rate?' with two radio button options: 'No (save and exit. You are done.)' and 'Yes (Answer the following questions.)'. The 'Yes' option is currently selected.

## **Consolidated Application Information and Resources**

Updated information on the Consolidated Application is on the NDDPI website:

[Consolidated Application | North Dakota  
Department of Public Instruction \(nd.gov/dpi\)](https://nd.gov/dpi/ConsolidatedApplication)



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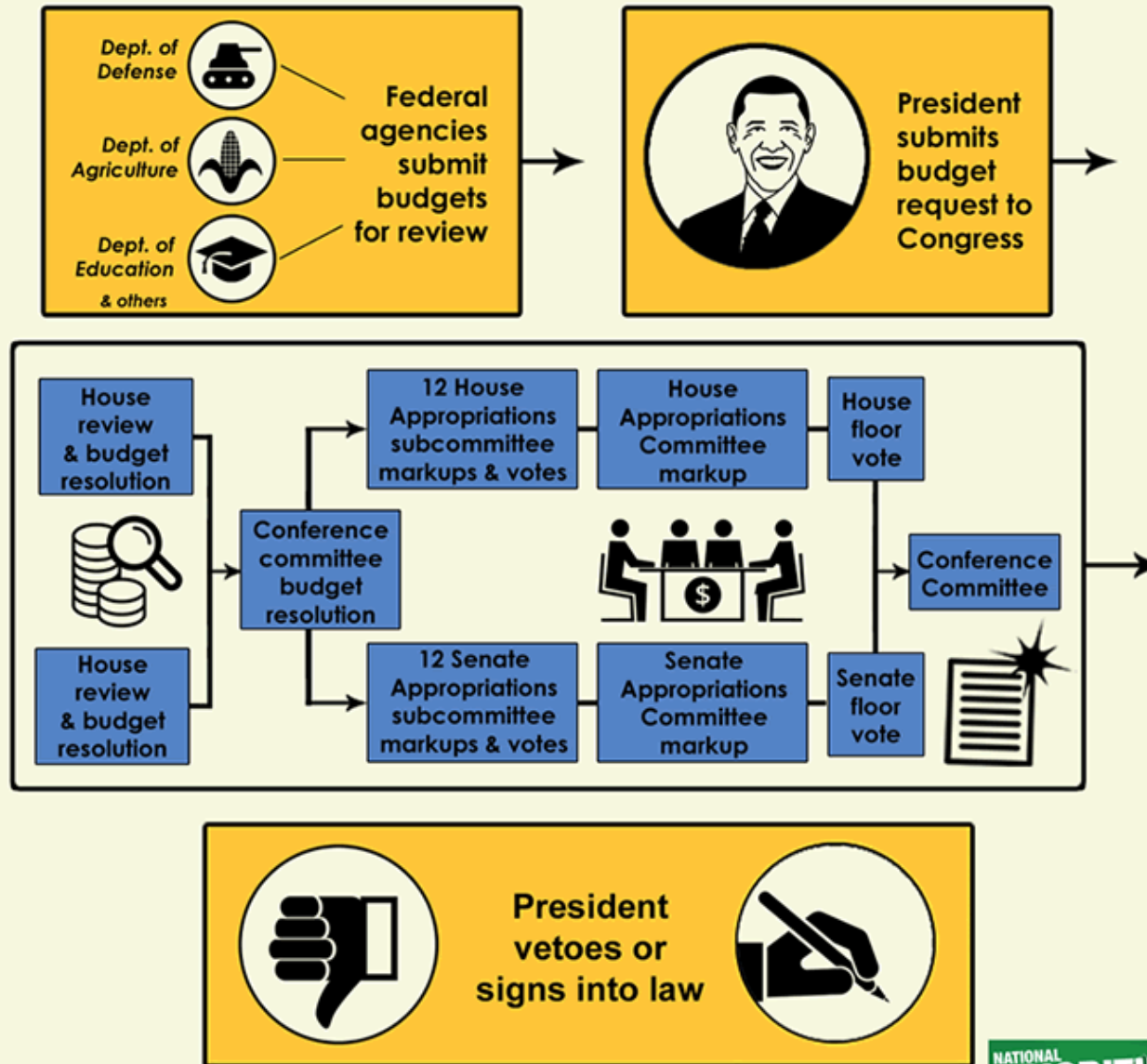
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# 2026-2027 (FY26) **Allocations**

# FY25 Reconciliation

- ✓ On May 22, 2025, the House passed the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*, a tax bill subject to the budget reconciliation process, which allows passage by a simple majority in the Senate.
- ✓ Most K-12 education funding is provided through discretionary programs that are appropriated each year and are not subject to reconciliation.
- ✓ It does include changes to Medicaid eligibility, cuts to student aid, and changes to loan repayment plans.
- ✓ The legislation also includes a tax credit for individuals making contributions to K-12 scholarships to public and private schools.
- ✓ The legislation will now move to the Senate for consideration.

## The Annual Federal Budget Process





# 2026-2027 Allocations

- ✓ Separate from reconciliation, Congress is working to advance a budget resolution for FY 26, which begins Oct. 1, 2025, for the 2026-2027 school year.
- ✓ The government is currently funded through Sept. 30, 2025, under a continuing resolution.
- ✓ Once a budget resolution has passed, the Appropriations Committees will set overall spending limits.
- ✓ President Trump released his budget on June 6, 2025, outlining his funding priorities, which combine several grant programs into a simplified K-12 Simplified Funding Program.
- ✓ The request would level fund Title I, Part A and increase funding for IDEA, but does eliminate Title I, Part C (Migrant) and Title III, Part A (EL), and reduce the overall education allocation by over \$4.5 billion with the consolidation.

# Funding **Your Plan**

# Maximizing Title Funds



Careful financial planning is essential with a reduced budget.

Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment and redirect spending to high-impact areas.



Consider a strategic use of personnel and resources.



Optimize use of professional development funds.



Improve purchasing and services.



Leverage community partnerships.



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# Funding Your Plan

- ✓ When federal funds are used to their full potential, states and districts can better support sustainable efforts that are evidence-based and focused on student outcomes.
- ✓ The following Funding Your Plan resources include concrete action steps school leaders can take to align funding with state policy priorities and promote sustainability:
  - [Funding Your Plan: Best Practices to Sustain Investments](#)
  - [Return on Investment Planning Tool Instructions](#)
  - [Return on Investment Planning Tool Worksheet](#)
- ✓ **Save the Date: July 28** for a Funding Your Plan Workshop co-hosted by CREA and NDDPI.



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State Superintendent  
Department of Public Instruction  
600 E Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 201  
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nd.gov/dpi



2025-2026

# **Accountability Process**



## PK-12 Education Strategic Vision Framework

**Our vision is that all students will graduate choice ready with the knowledge, skills, and disposition to be successful**

We will make progress toward this vision by achieving these long-term outcomes for students

- Increase students who enter kindergarten prepared to learn, and increase the number of kindergarten classrooms that meet the needs of every learner
- Increase students who demonstrate reading proficiency in 3rd grade
- Increase students who meet expected learning gains each year
- Increase students who engage in learning
- Increase students who graduate Choice Ready
- Reduce the disparity in achievement for students with disabilities, students in poverty, and Native American students

We will drive improvement on these outcomes through focused effort within these strategic themes

- Quality early childhood experiences
- Support for safe and healthy behaviors
- Career awareness, exploration, and development
- Quality education personnel
- Quality student-centered instruction

Updated June 30, 2022

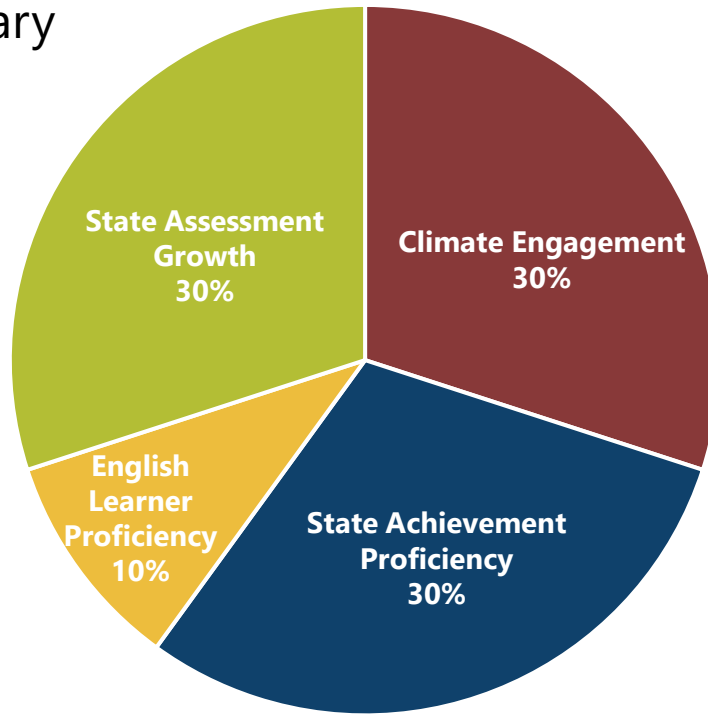
# Purpose of Accountability

**TO PROVIDE STATEWIDE RESPONSIBILITY TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO PURSUE THE ND PK-12 STRATEGIC VISION AND THE FOLLOWING:**

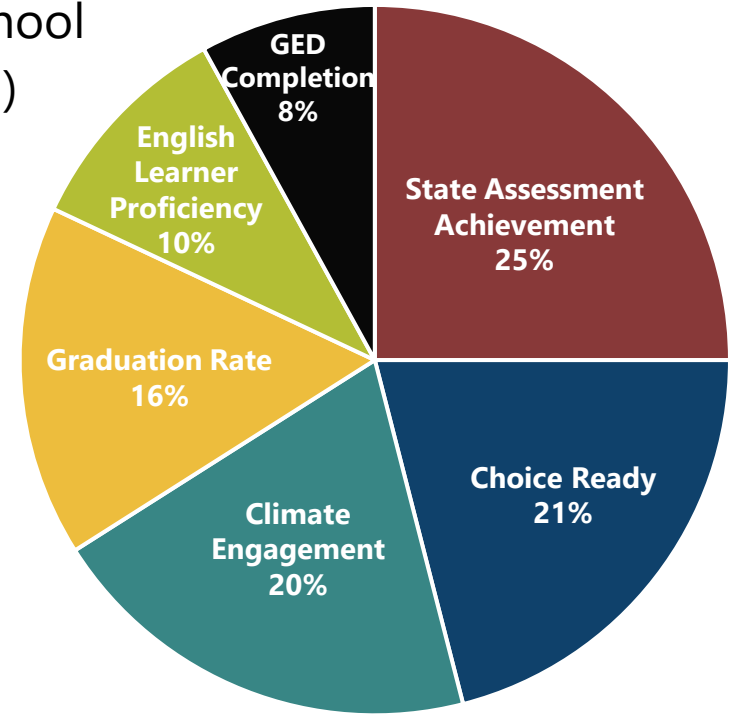
- ✓ Provide transparency and public reporting of key performance and improvement indicators for all schools, districts, and the state;
- ✓ Ensure all schools and districts are engaged in a process of continuous improvement;
- ✓ Identify when and where desired results are not being achieved, prioritize which schools are most in need of support; and
- ✓ Allocate resources and support services, increase oversight and engagement, and elevate accountability for those schools most in need of support.

# Elementary & High School Accountability System

Elementary  
(K-8)



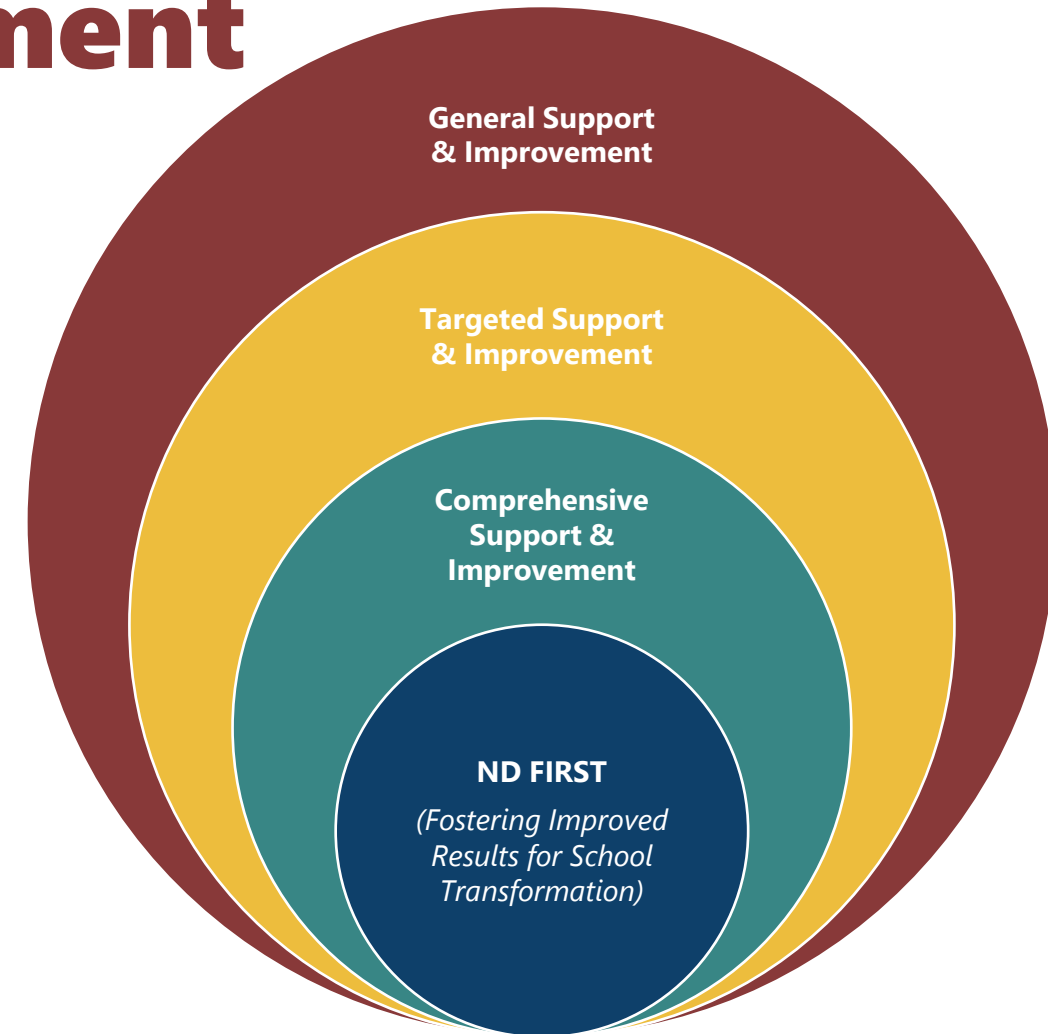
High School  
(9-12)



For accountability purposes, grades 7 and 8 are included with the elementary report, except for large districts with an approved middle school.

# ND Continuous Improvement

- ✓ Currently, North Dakota uses Cognia statewide for school approval.
- ✓ All schools participate in continuous school improvement, evidenced through the Strategy Map.
- ✓ Visit the [Insights Dashboard](#) for detailed information about any school in North Dakota.
- ✓ Within North Dakota's System of Support, schools are designated as one of the following:
  - General Support and Improvement
  - Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)
  - Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)
  - Fostering Improved Results for School Transformation (ND FIRST)



# Projected 2025-2026 TSI/CSI/ND FIRST Identification Timeline



# Communication **Channels**

# How do you keep up?

SUBSCRIBE AND READ NDDPI NEWSLETTERS AND MEMOS



**NDDPI Messenger**

Weekly or  
Bi-Monthly



**Educator's Edge**

Monthly

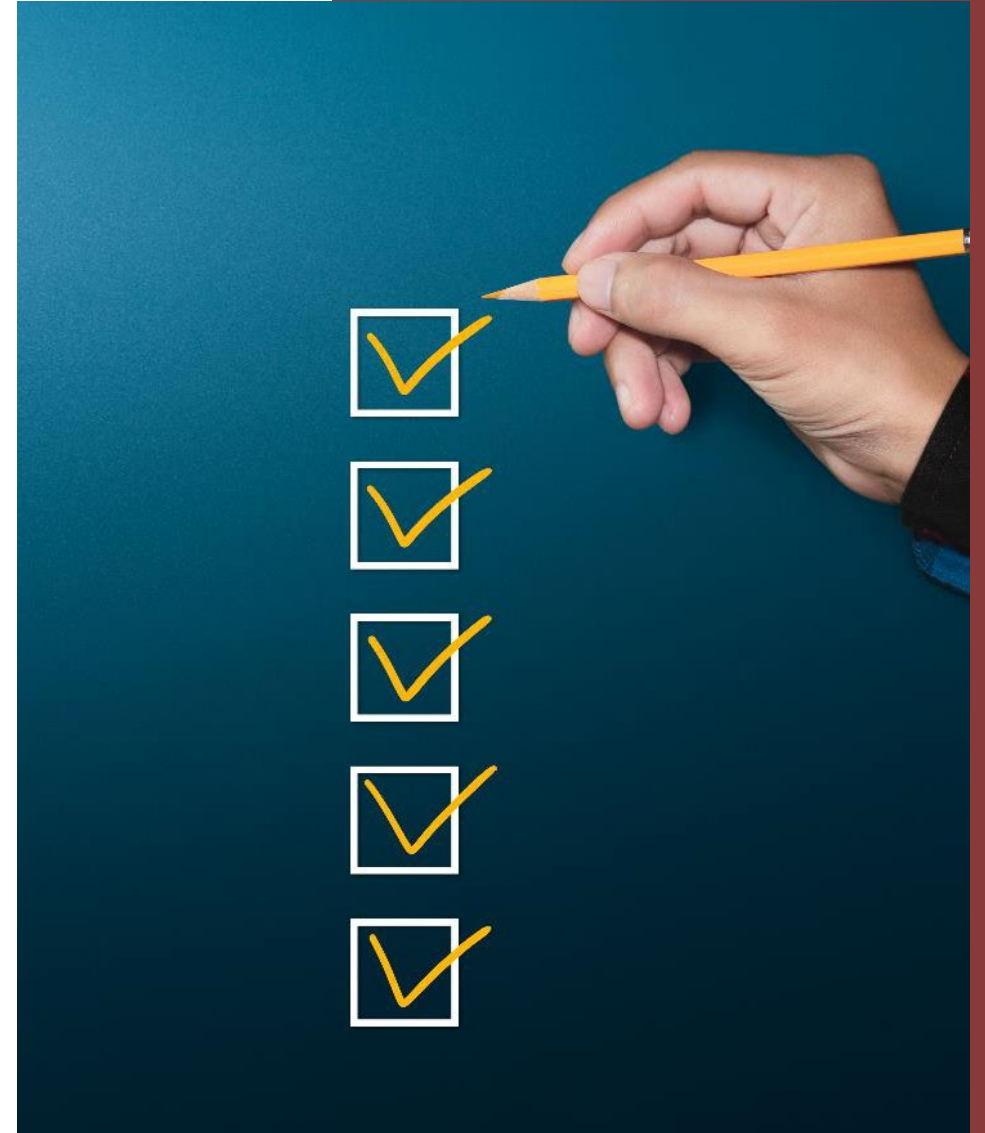


**NDDPI Website**

Regularly

# Additional Resources

- [ESSA | North Dakota Department of Public Instruction](#)
- [Federal Title Programs | North Dakota Department of Public Instruction](#)
- [WebGrants | NDDPI](#)
- [NDDPI WebGrants Internal User Guide](#)
- [ND School District Financial Accounting and Reporting Manual \(NDSDFARM\)](#)
- [Object Code Categories](#)
- [Tracking Federal and Local Funds](#)
- [Home | U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [Uniform Grant Guidance-Code of Federal Regulations](#)
- [OMB Uniform Guidance \(2014\) | Grants.gov](#)
- [<https://www.fac.gov/compliance/>](#)





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# THANK YOU

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