ESEA Flexibility Waiver

Laurie Matzke,
North Dakota Director of Title I

North Dakota submitted its ESEA Flexibility Waiver application to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) on September 6, 2012. ED staff then conducted a cursory review to ensure thoroughness of the application. All ESEA Flexibility Waiver applications submitted are reviewed by an external peer review team. North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (DPI) staff has had two conference calls with ED staff to answer questions or provide clarification. The following list summarizes the issues that DPI has had to readdress:

- How North Dakota obtained consultation and input on our application and what changes were made as a result
- North Dakota’s plan to fund Common Core Learning Standards
- Clarification on ACT requirements being set outside the ED example

- Why the accountability system applies to the Title I schools only (i.e., non-categorical schools)
- Why the waiver doesn’t include participation rates as part of priority and focus identification
- How North Dakota will ensure quality of external providers
- How the state will use teacher/principal evaluation results
- What role student growth has in the teacher/principal evaluation system
- Without mandatory set-asides written into the waiver, how will interventions and professional development be funded

DPI submitted a written response to these questions on October 3, 2012. We are waiting to receive written comments from the peer review team that evaluated our proposal. More information about the ESEA Flexibility Waiver can be found at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/fallconf2012/matzke.pdf

North Dakota School Accreditation Study Results

The 2011 Legislative Assembly passed legislation relative to approval of schools (NDCC 15.1-06). Schools are currently approved for operation by the state based on compliance in six criteria:

1. Each classroom teacher is licensed or approved to teach by the Education Standards and Practices Board
2. Each classroom teacher is teaching only those courses or fields for which the teacher is licensed
3. The school meets all curricular requirements
4. The school has been inspected by the state fire marshal or designee
5. All individuals hired after June 30, 2011, and having unsupervised contact with students at the school have undergone a criminal history background check requested by the school district or in order to be licensed by ESPB

Congratulations to Service Award Recipients!
STUDY RESULTS

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The school participates in and meets requirements of a review process that is designed to improve student achievement through a continuous cycle of improvement and is approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

School funding is contingent on compliance to these school approval criteria.

Passage of this law made the old accreditation rules (Administrative Rule 67-19-01) obsolete. Old accreditation rules were numeric in context (minimum minutes per class, maximum class size, minimum number of elementary counselors and library media specialists, etc). These numbers cited in accreditation rules were not based on research. Rather they were input (not output) based and had little to do with student achievement.

During the interim period after the 2011 Legislative Session, DPI facilitated a study to determine the desirability and feasibility of developing, implementing, and administering a statewide accreditation system designed to increase student achievement. Last November this accreditation study began with the creation of two committees: the Accreditation Advisory Committee and the Accreditation Review Committee.

These committees first met in November 2011 and reviewed the three school improvement processes currently being used in North Dakota: AdvancEd, North Dakota Moving to Improve Learning for Everyone (NDMILE), and the State Education Improvement Process (SEIP). Currently, over 200 schools in North Dakota voluntarily participate in AdvancEd accreditation. Over 200 schools currently participate in the State Education Improvement Process (SEIP), which is a review and improvement process but not an accreditation process. Approximately 70 schools identified by Title I through NCLB as “schools in improvement” participate in NDMILE, which is also a review and improvement process but not an accreditation process.

These committees then worked to answer four questions:
1. What is the purpose of accreditation?
2. Should North Dakota have statewide accreditation?
3. How can accreditation drive teacher and school effectiveness?
4. How can the accreditation process eliminate duplication of federal and state reporting?

During the next eight months, committee members met to define an accreditation system that would meet our needs and satisfy the questions above. On April 18, 2012, committee members recommended statewide adoption of AdvancEd Accreditation.

A proposal has been drafted and will be submitted to the 2013 legislature to approve this accreditation process and provide funding for its implementation and support.

Allen elected NDSBA President

Delegates to the 2012 NDSBA Convention elected Jamestown school board member Greg Allen president of the association and Minot board member Jim Rostad as vice president. Others elected to the Board of Directors are:

- Ben Auch, Mott/Regent school board member, was elected to complete Kirsten Baesler’s term as Northwest Director.
- Mike Lautenschlager, Lewis & Clark school board member, was elected to his first term as Southwest Director.
- Jim Johnson, Fargo school board member, was elected to his first term as Southeast Director.

Due to the October resignation of former Northeast Director Roger Pohlman, Jennifer Johnson, Larimore school board member, was appointed by the NDSBA board to finish Pohlman’s term as allowed by association bylaws.

NDSBA thanks these individuals for devoting their time, talent, and energy to provide leadership to the association.
The 2012 NDSBA Annual Convention was held in Bismarck on October 26-27. The School Law Seminar and New Member Seminar were on October 25 also in Bismarck. The convention opened with two keynote presentations. Karl Mecklenburg, former Denver Broncos Captain, presented his “Six Keys to Success” and David Quam, Director of the Office of Federal Relations for the National Governors Association discussed “The New Frontier in Public Education.”

Saturday’s General Session speaker was Dr. Ruby Payne who shared information on the “Mindsets of Economic Classes and Overcoming Poverty.”

Clinic sessions were held Friday and Saturday morning on various topics of interest to school board members, administrators and business managers. Exhibitors were present on Friday to share expertise on their products and services.

Presentations were given to Bev Nielson, former NDSBA Assistant to the Executive Director; Maurice Hardy, NDSBA outgoing Past President; Angela Korsmo, NDSBA outgoing President; Jannell Lagein, outgoing NDSBA Vice President, and Kirsten Baesler, outgoing Southwest Director, in gratitude for their years of service to NDSBA.
The Board of Directors of the National School Boards Association (NSBA) has named Thomas J. Gentzel as its next executive director.

“I am honored to lead NSBA at such an important time for the organization and for public education,” said Gentzel. “I am deeply committed to community ownership of public schools, which is the essence of school board governance. We will build on a strong foundation, taking an active role in shaping education policy and ensuring a quality education for all children in America.” Gentzel is currently executive director of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

Gentzel will join NSBA on December 1, 2012. NSBA's Executive Director Anne L. Bryant retired at the end of September after more than 16 years as executive director. Bryant noted, “Tom brings extraordinary insight into NSBA. He will not only have 100 percent support from our state associations across the nation, he has vision for the leadership role of school boards and school board governance in public education.”

Superintendent Evaluation Deadline

North Dakota Century Code 15.1-14-03 states, “Before December fifteenth of each year, the board of a school district shall conduct a formative evaluation of the superintendent’s performance.”

This evaluation must occur at an open school board meeting before the deadline.

If you have questions regarding the board’s responsibilities, call Legal Counsel Annette Bendish at the NDSBA office (800) 932-8791.

Jamestown School District
Contact: Jon Martinson
701-255-4217
eMail: Jon.Martinson@ndsba.org
Deadline: December 15, 2012
Position begins: July 1, 2013

Wilton School District
Contact: Jon Martinson
701-255-4217
eMail: Jon.Martinson@ndsba.org
Deadline: December 14, 2012
Position begins: July 1, 2013
NDSBA Delegates Adopt Resolutions

The Delegate Assembly voted on proposed resolutions during this year’s annual convention. Below are resolutions adopted by delegates at their meeting on October 27. A complete list of NDSBA’s Standing Resolutions and Beliefs and Policies can be found at www.ndsba.org under “Legislation.”

New Resolutions

BUSINESS MANAGER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
School boards support the Business Manager Certificate Program by providing financial support through the use of school district funds to encourage business managers to participate in this voluntary professional development opportunity.

STATE AID FOR GROWING SCHOOL DISTRICTS
NDSBA shall support legislation that modifies the Foundation Aid Program to allow the use of fall enrollment to provide adequate state support to districts with increasing enrollment.

ALTERNATIVE COMPENSATION
NDSBA shall support legislation that provides school districts with separate and additional funding that encourages development of alternative compensation models that reward teaching practices that support measurable academic achievement for all students.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM
NDSBA shall work with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and the North Dakota State Legislature to encourage the USDA to amend their federal regulations related to the School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and “a la carte” food sales to allow for local control.

Resolutions Readopted as Written

PERMANENT MECHANISM TO DISTRIBUTE SURPLUS SPECIAL EDUCATION DOLLARS
NDSBA shall support efforts to develop an appropriate funding level and provide a mechanism to distribute monies earmarked for special education back to school districts for which it was intended.

STATE TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION
NDSBA believes the cost of maintaining, supporting, and enhancing this system should continue to be financed with state dollars and there should be no transfer of the cost associated with this network back to the local school districts.

STATE FUNDING OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMS
NDSBA supports the state ensuring program funding equity and full funding of special education costs to districts including gifted and talented education.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
NDSBA shall oppose legislation mandating school boards to collectively bargain with employees other than those currently required by 15.1-16-01: “...public school employee(s) licensed to teach by the ESPB or approved to teach by the ESPB and employed primarily as a classroom teacher.”

INFORMATION ABOUT JUVENILE OFFENDERS
NDSBA will seek legislation that requires juvenile authorities to inform the principal or other appropriate administrator of a school where a juvenile is or will be enrolled if school attendance is a condition of disposition.

POSTING OF BILLS IN AN ALTERNATE FORMAT
NDSBA shall support state law changes to allow school districts the flexibility to post their bills using an electronic format such as the district’s Website.

Resolutions Less Than Four Years Old Recommended To Be Dropped

ND Teacher of the Year Program
This resolution was accomplished through 2011 legislative action.

Standing Resolutions adopted at the 2012 Convention remain until 2016 unless accomplished before that time.
North Dakota Hosts 2012 NSBA Western Region Meeting

NDSBA staff and board had the pleasure of hosting school board members from New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota for the Western Region Annual Meeting on September 14-16. The National School Boards Association divides the country into five regions and each of those regions meets annually to make decisions and elect representatives for NSBA governance purposes.

Members from NSBA’s Executive Board including President C. Ed Massey, Kentucky; President-Elect David Pickler, Tennessee; and Secretary-Treasurer Anne Byrne, New York, along with Executive Director Anne Bryant attended the meeting. NDSBA Board President Angela Korsmo presided over this year’s proceedings.

Western Region Delegate Assembly elected Lyndon Burnett (Colorado) to be the Western Region representative for the two-year term on the NSBA Nominating Committee. Brian Farmer (Wyoming) was elected to be the Western Region representative for the one-year term on the NSBA Policy and Resolutions Committee.

Neil Putnam (South Dakota) was endorsed by the Western Region as a candidate for the Western Region Director position on the NSBA Board of Directors and John Tuttle (Oklahoma) was endorsed as a candidate for the position of NSBA Secretary-Treasurer. Putnam’s name will be placed in nomination at the NSBA’s Delegate Assembly meeting and Tuttle’s candidacy will be considered by the NSBA Nominating Committee in April, just prior to the 2013 Annual Conference.

The 2013 Western Region Meeting will be held September 12-15, in Whitefish, Montana.