



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Emily O'Brien

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COMMITTEES:

Appropriations
Appropriations - Human Resources Division

04/08/2025

House Bill 1329 Senate Education Committee

Chairman Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations Education and Environment Division Committee,

I am Representative Emily O'Brien; I represent District 42 in Grand Forks. Before you is House Bill 1329, the intentions of this bill is to have transparency on where the money allocated from the legislature to our local school districts is being spent. Currently, legislators know how much funding each district receives but lack detailed insights into the actual expenditures.

We heard in the House opposition testimony that this would be an immense burden on local school districts. Our school administrators are already doing budget preparation, payroll processing, and financial reporting at the local level - it should be no different to report the information at the state level.

In North Dakota, our K-12 budget is \$2.5 Billion dollars. We have an enrollment of 115,797 students and 9,233 teachers in our public schools. While campaigning, one of the things I continued to hear was the troublingly low levels of teacher pay, paraprofessionals and aids in our classrooms.

Teachers' pays went further nearly 40 years ago than they do today due to rising inflation and flat pay. We are asking teachers to do more in the classroom, with less. As a mom of a kindergartener, who has been begging to go to school since she was two, I want to ensure that our educators have every tool in their classroom to ensure student success.

K-12 school spending has increased 340% since 1960, even when controlling inflation. In 1960, it took 13 students to pay a teacher's salary. Today it only takes four. So, where does the money go?

Education spending transparency allows parents, school boards, and taxpayers to stand up to unaccountable bureaucracies that waste money and fail to educate children. By creating a window into each purpose that a

school makes, states empower parents to advocate for wasting less and putting more money into higher teacher pay and other research-backed solutions that are proven to improve student learning outcomes.

The increased number of administrators, support staff, and instructional aids - please do not get me wrong, these people are important to the operations of our schools. But this increase has not improved student learning outcomes - and has made it nearly impossible to increase pay that would attract and retain more high-quality teachers. Publishing school-by-school information will help ensure that taxpayers know how their money is being spent - and can hold schools accountable.

Local officials, parents, and members of the public would have immediate access to the information on how every dollar is spent, whether an administrator's salary, office supplies, or new curricula. When communities come together, armed with facts about how public-school dollars are spent, parents can hold schools accountable and advocate for proven strategies that improve student outcomes and compensate teachers fairly.

Working together, we can set up a public checkbook. Please find attached some sample visuals using sample data on our K-12 schools and transparency on spending at the local level.

Currently, the State of North Dakota uses Oracle's Cloud@Customer which is Oracle Cloud, within North Dakota's Data Center. Everything that is attached in this packet as samples could be spun up on the existing environment.

We could phase this in over the first two years at \$500,000 to start moving the needle on the financial data from our local school districts. My intentions are to be flexible with getting this ball rolling, rather than studying it. Spending money on the study just kicks the can down the road of financial data that the districts already have, we just must receive the actual expenses back from the districts and into a user-friendly platform for the public.

The Oracle platform can adjust the data to various charts - pie charts, bar charts and even provide a narrative along with those charts. As you can see below, there are various options over 5 years. I think having real-time data is important to our constituents. This includes the training and implementation of the data into the platform. Another item that was discussed on the platform is tracking student behavior, absenteeism which can be easily integrated.

I am requesting that this committee adopt the amendment before you, 25.1112.02003. I had a few technical errors and had cities, counties and higher education included in the draft before you - that was not my intention. That concludes my testimony. Thank you, Chairman Sorvaag and members of the committee.

April 4, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1329

Introduced by

Representatives O'Brien, Pyle, Schreiber-Beck, Swiontek

Senator Axtman

In place of the amendments (25.1112.02001) adopted by the Senate, House Bill No. 1329 is amended by amendment (25.1112.02003) as follows:

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study regarding the establishment of a
2 government spending database; and to provide an appropriation; for an Act to create and enact
3 a new section to chapter 15.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the duties of the
4 superintendent of public instruction and the establishment of a government spending database;
5 to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective date.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

7 ~~SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - GOVERNMENT SPENDING~~
8 ~~DATABASE. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying~~
9 ~~the feasibility of the establishment of a government spending database. The study must include:~~
10 ~~1. A review of the training services necessary for school board members,~~
11 ~~superintendents, principals, and business managers regarding the government~~
12 ~~spending database, including best practices, personnel management, financial~~
13 ~~operations, facility planning, and regulatory compliance.~~
14 ~~2. The feasibility of establishing a database that compiles the following information for~~
15 ~~each expenditure:~~
16 ~~a. The amount paid.~~
17 ~~b. The payment date.~~
18 ~~c. The recipient name.~~
19 ~~d. The paying entity.~~
20 ~~e. The employee position, if for a personnel payment.~~

- 1 ~~f. For a school district, with respect to educational materials:~~
- 2 ~~(1) A description of curriculum.~~
- 3 ~~(2) The publisher and author of a textbook.~~
- 4 ~~(3) A description of software specifications and developer identification.~~
- 5 ~~g. A standardized categorization using United States census bureau codes for state-~~
- 6 ~~and local transactions and nationally recognized standardized codes for school-~~
- 7 ~~districts and institutions of higher education.~~
- 8 ~~3. The feasibility of establishing a database capable of providing:~~
- 9 ~~a. Search capabilities.~~
- 10 ~~b. Data aggregation tools.~~
- 11 ~~c. Download options in common formats.~~
- 12 ~~d. Anonymous salary and benefit information.~~
- 13 ~~e. Regular updates of all information.~~

14 ~~The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any~~
15 ~~legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.~~

16 ~~**SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - CONSULTANTS FOR**~~
17 ~~**INTERIM STUDY - GOVERNMENT SPENDING DATABASE STUDY - ONE-TIME FUNDING.**~~

18 ~~There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise~~
19 ~~appropriated, the sum of \$97,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the~~
20 ~~legislative council for the purpose of contracting with a consultant to assist in conducting a study~~
21 ~~regarding the feasibility of a government spending database, for the biennium beginning July 1,~~
22 ~~2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time~~
23 ~~funding item.~~

24 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
25 and enacted as follows:

26 **Government spending database - Requirements - Superintendent of public**
27 **instruction.**

- 28 1. The superintendent of public instruction shall collect data from school districts and
29 establish and maintain a government spending database that is accessible without
30 cost through the internet and contains detailed expenditure data collected from school
31 districts. The data must be updated at least monthly.

2. The database must include for each expenditure:

a. The amount paid.

b. The payment date.

c. The recipient name.

d. The paying entity.

e. The employee position, if for a personnel payment.

f. With respect to educational materials:

(1) A description of curriculum.

(2) The publisher and author of a textbook.

(3) A description of software specifications and developer identification.

g. A standardized categorization using nationally recognized standardized codes.

3. The database must provide:

a. Search capabilities.

b. Data aggregation tools.

c. Download options in common formats.

d. Anonymous salary and benefit information.

e. Regular updates of all information.

4. A school district shall provide the required data as directed, ensure the accuracy of the data, and use existing resources for compliance with the requirements of this section.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION -

GOVERNMENT SPENDING DATABASE - ONE-TIME FUNDING. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$500,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of public instruction for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a government spending database, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time funding item.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 1 of this Act becomes effective on July 1, 2026.

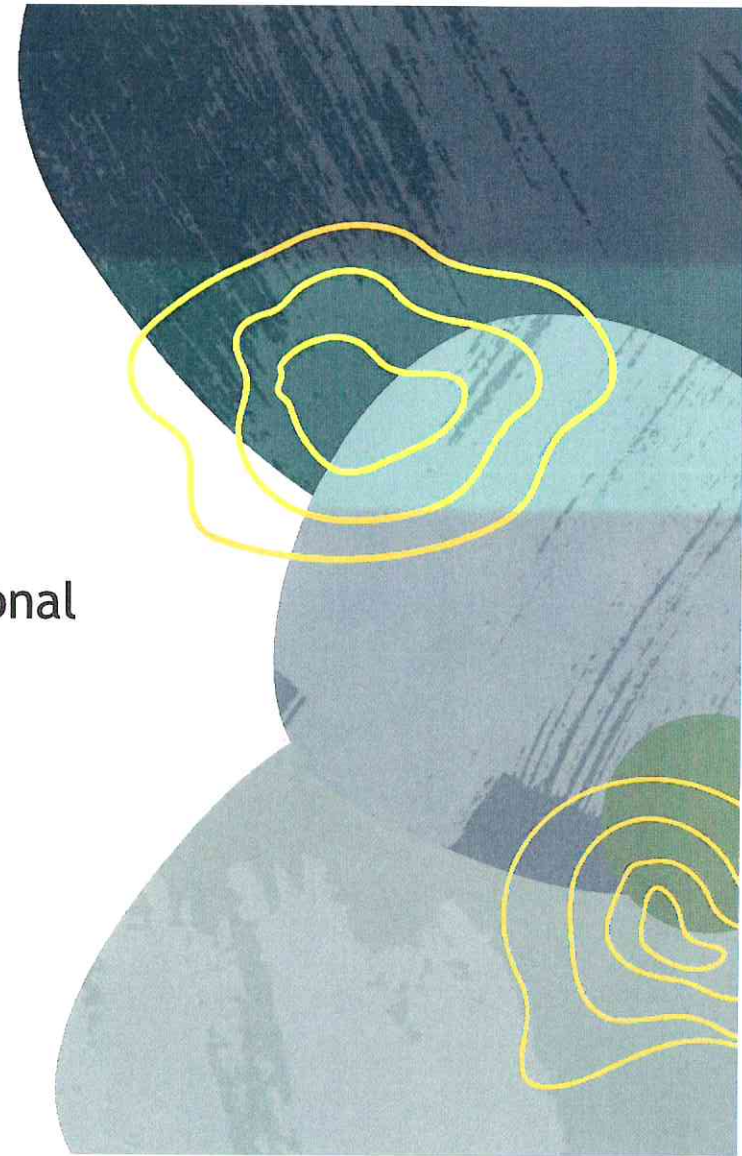
Modernize Analytics for the State of North Dakota

Performance, Security, Cost Optimization & Operational Excellence

Nick Wallace, Cloud Platform Rep

Tyrus Clark, PMP Master Principal Enterprise Cloud Architect

March 26, 2025



Mapping the key State of North Dakota Oracle Analytics Cloud on Autonomous Database

Helping the North Dakota realize your business vision

North Dakota K-12 Analytics Options	Year 1
OAC/ADW/ w/GG (Assumes real-time replication/Streaming)	\$226,409
OAC/ADW/ w/o_GG (Assumes Batch/Flat Files)	\$203,609

Estimated Services	Year 1
One-Time Transition Fee	\$81,444

Legend - Services In Scope
Oracle Analytics Cloud (OAC)
Autonomous Data Warehouse (ADW)

North Dakota K-12 Analytics Options	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total	Comments
OAC/ADW/ w/GG (Assumes real-time replication/Streaming)	\$226,409	\$226,409	\$226,409	\$226,409	\$226,409	\$1,132,047	
OAC/ADW/ w/o_GG (Assumes Batch/Flat Files)	\$203,609	\$203,609	\$203,609	\$203,609	\$203,609	\$1,018,046	Data Driven Recommendation

Key Assumptions Notations	Sizing	Measures
Terabytes per District	300	GB
Total Terabytes	91,648	GB
Number of District	179	
Number of Users Per District	2	
Total Number of Users	358	

Key Assumptions

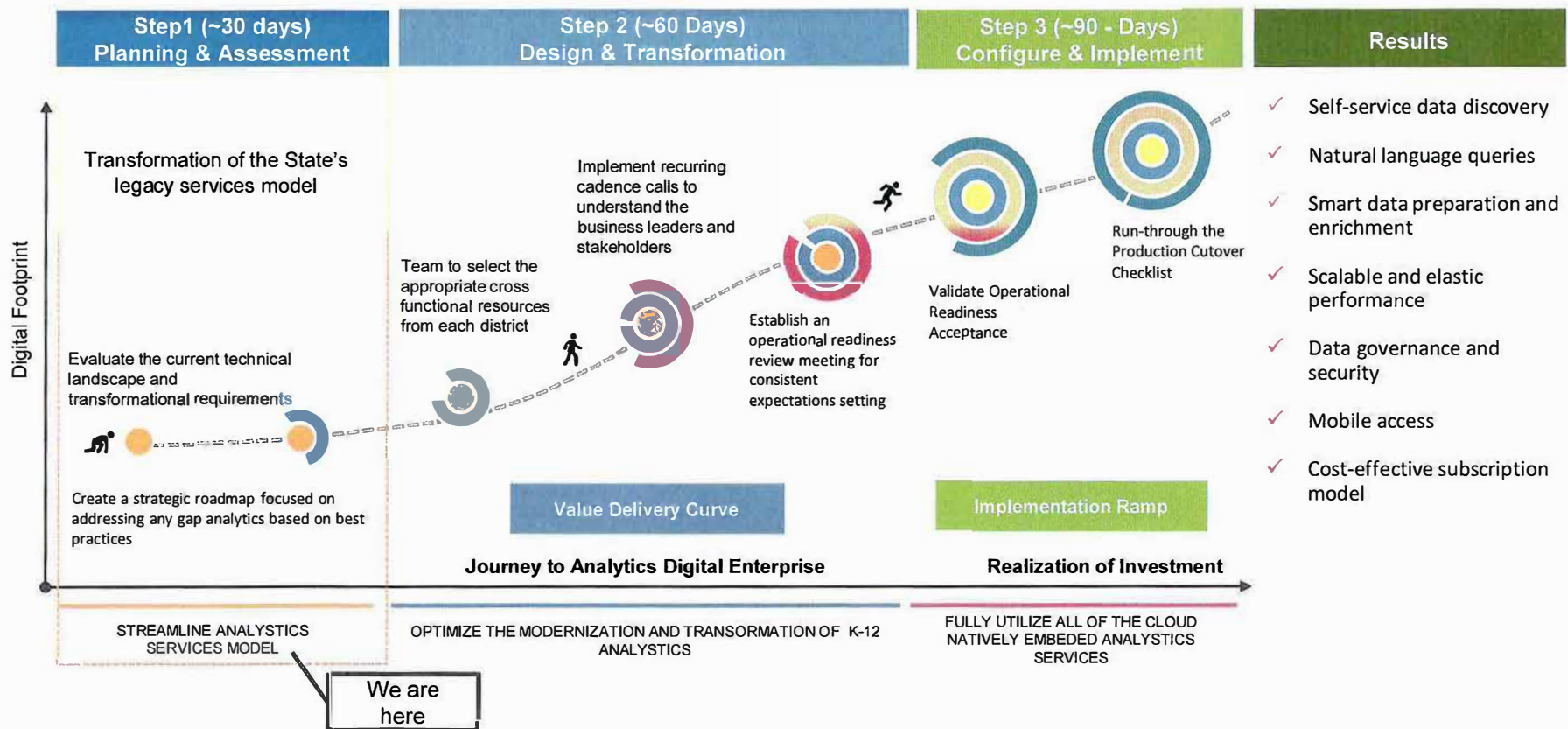
- Professional: Great for agile teams who need quick, intuitive analytics in the cloud.
- Each district will have or provide access to data in a flat-file
- Discount assumed to be 5% based on this standalone scope

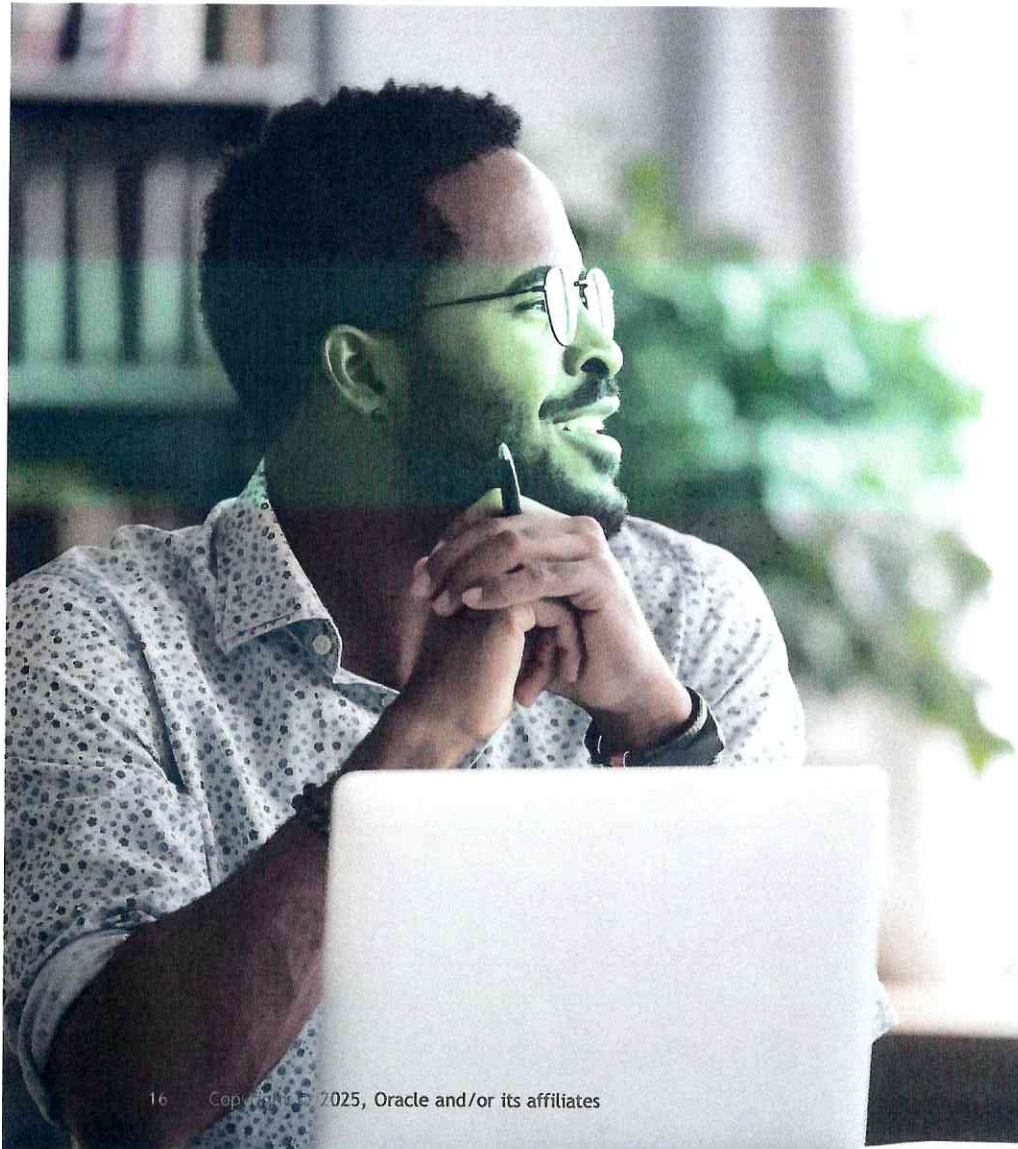
Three Phases Deployment

- 44 Districts @ \$67K in cost over 180 days

Transformation Commitment Level of Effort

The Oracle Approach to Modernization





Executive Commitment

- Future State Architecture Services Design
 - ❖ Oracle Autonomous Database
 - ❖ Oracle Analytics Cloud
- Lower TCO and complexity of the OCI Services Model
- Superior performance backed by SLAs
- Unique capabilities with enhanced service operations, availability, security, automation, and control

Next steps



ND workbook - State Overview



Home State (1) Home City (5)

Home State

ND

Gender

All

Enrollment
20

Actual
449,581,394.87

Budget
454,236,636.87

Retention
18

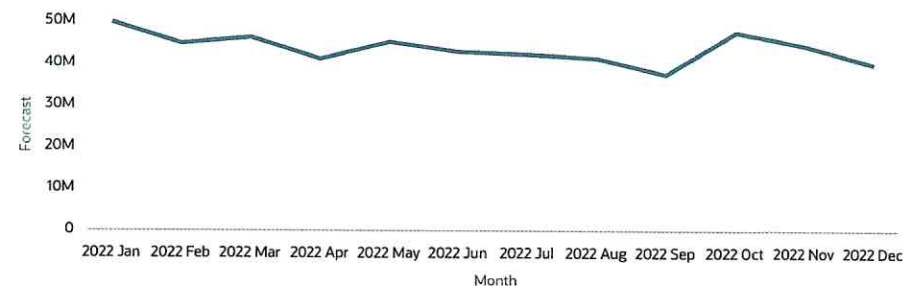
Attendance Hrs
705

Student Count
20

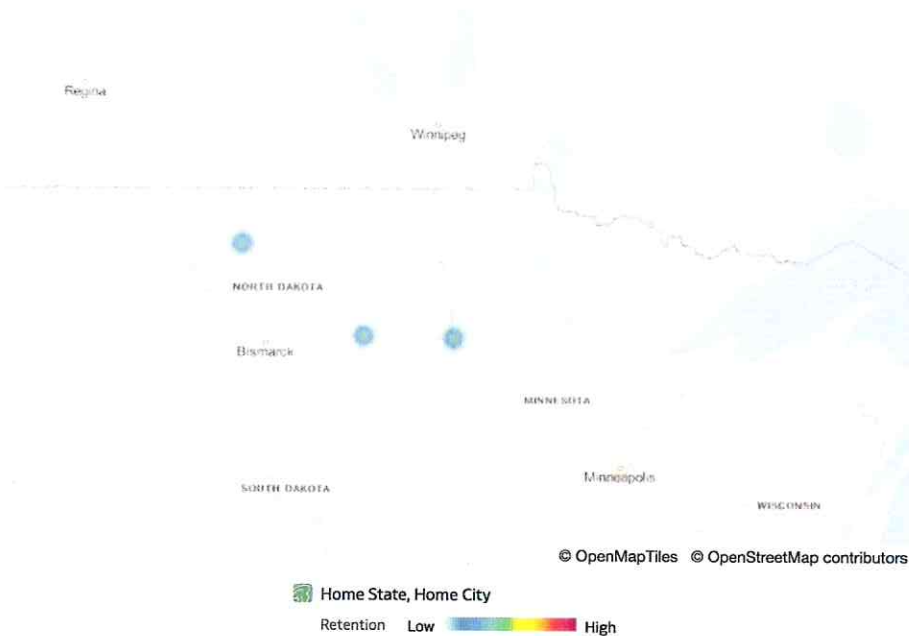
Budget by Department



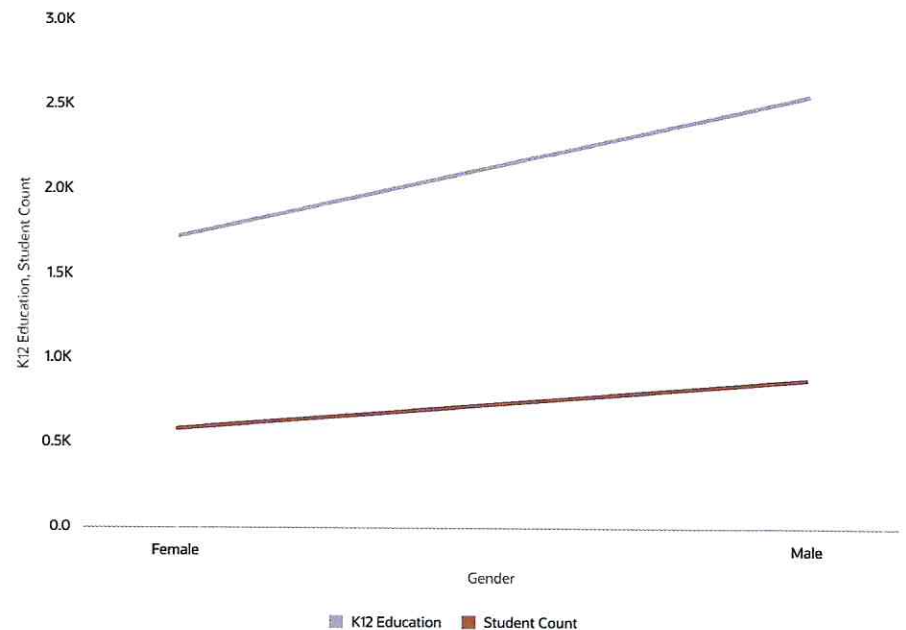
Forecast by Month, Institution



Home State, Home City, Retention, Enrollment

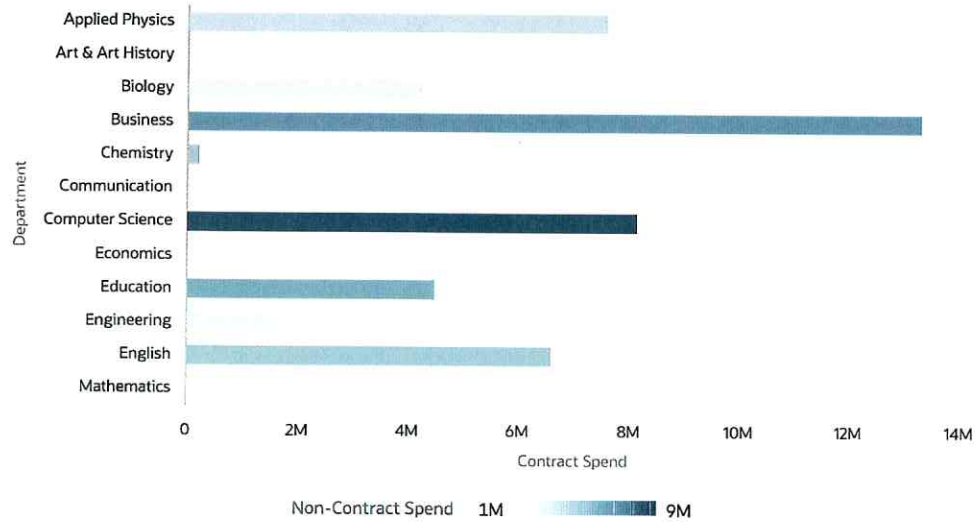


K12 Education, Student Count by Gender

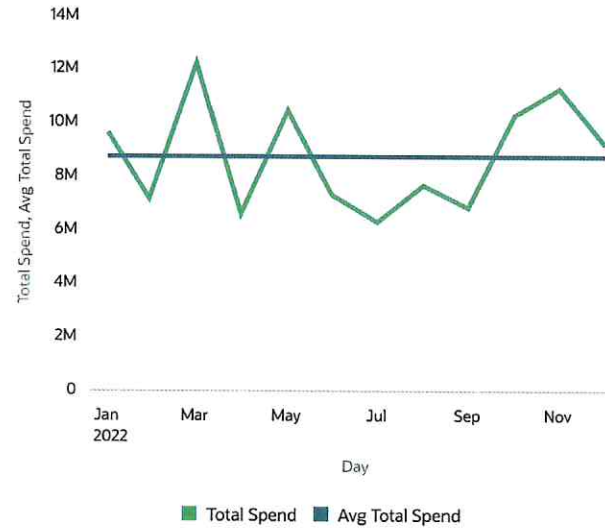


ND workbook - Details

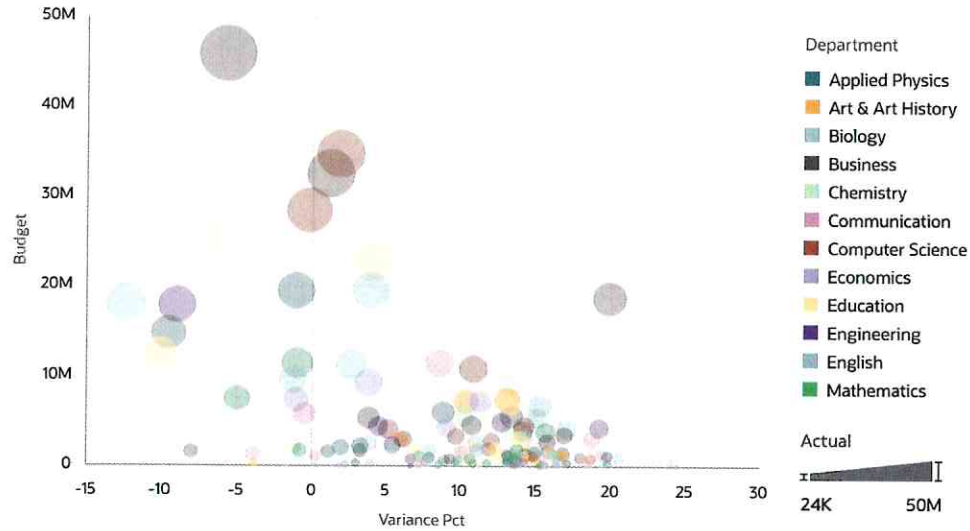
Spend by Department



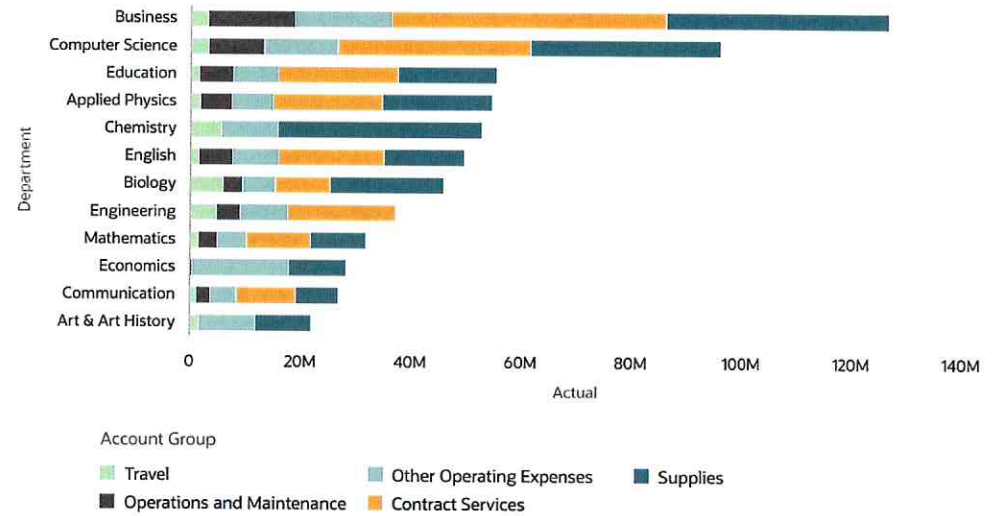
District Spend



Variance Pct, Budget by Account, Department, Actual



Actual by Department, Account Group



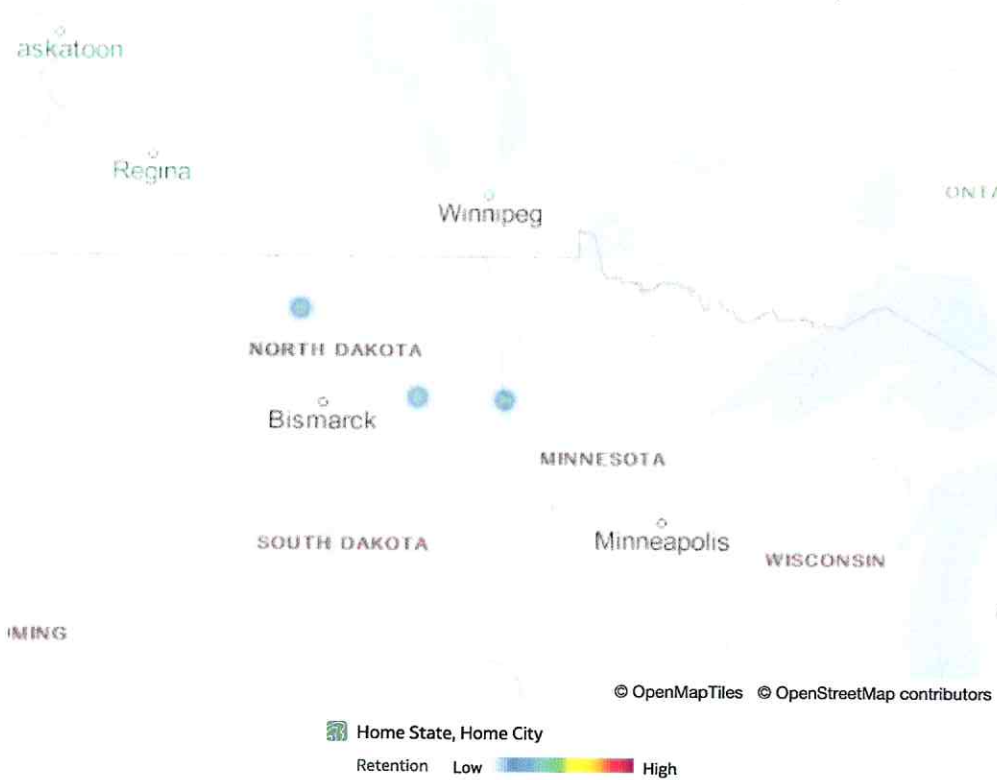
ND workbook - AI Insights

Measures Overview

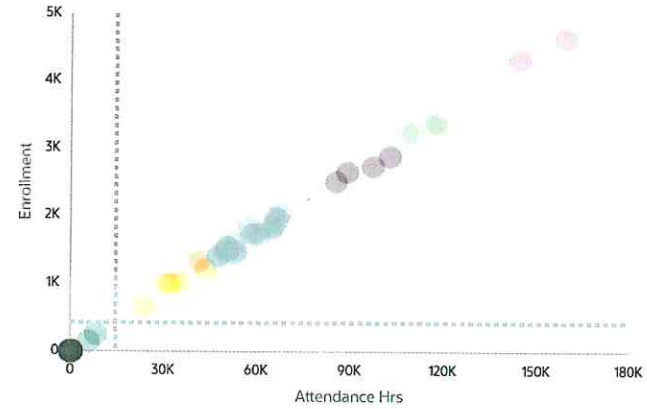
Row Count	Attendance Hrs by Record	Enrollment by Record	Ratio Attendance Hrs, Enrollment	Attendance Hrs	Enrollment
75,173	34.32	1.01	34.09	2,580,119.6	75,695

Home State, Home City, Retention, Enrollment

Home State: ND Gender: All Home State: ND Home City: Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Minot



Clusters of Home City



Pareto of Home City

Total Enrollment 76K

