



SB 2269 FAQs



NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

What does this bill do?

The bill moves the Center for Distance Education (CDE), which is currently under the Department for Career and Technical Education (CTE), under the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Why is CDE, CTE, & DPI supporting the bill?

CDE is a state school that provides a full K-12 curriculum and a diploma program. CDE added elementary education in 2020, shifting the balance of its course portfolio from 50% core and 50% CTE to slightly over 30% CTE and the remaining 70% core courses and electives. CDE is better aligned under DPI because it is a state school; DPI oversees the School for the Blind and the School for the Deaf.

Who will govern CDE operations under this change?

The Board of Public Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction have general oversight of CDE; the director manages day-to-day operations, with an assistant superintendent and principal in charge of school operations. Though not in the bill, CDE also plans to create an advisory board. The bill does not change the requirements that CDE receive school approval and maintain accreditation--steps CDE has and will continue to take to ensure quality instruction and services.

What will happen to CDE's budget and its authority to set and assess fees for its courses?

CDE's budget will be moved under DPI, but SB 2269 requires this budget to be held and maintained separately from DPI's. CDE will continue to set and assess tuition based on its budget needs in consultation with stakeholders like Small Organized Schools. The ND Legislature will approve CDE's budget, just as it does for the School for the Blind and the School for the Deaf.

SB 2269 FAQs, continued

Is this bill an effort to consolidate all state education agencies under DPI?

No. CTE's mission is distinct from DPI, and CTE manages hundreds of programs, grants, and services. Furthermore, CTE is not a school, whereas CDE is an online K-12 school.

Will CDE continue to collaborate with CTE and continue to offer CTE courses?

Yes. CDE and CTE strongly value their partnership and the work jointly conducted. CDE is committed to delivering CTE courses when it identifies school district and student needs that may not be fully met by the CTE Centers and when it can deliver these courses in a manner aligned with CTE standards. All cooperative work between CDE and CTE, including the goal of creating an online CTE course catalog, will continue. Furthermore, CDE, CTE, and DPI meet monthly to share operational updates and identify opportunities for collaboration, and this work will continue.

When would this transition take effect?

This bill does not have an emergency clause, so it will go into effect on August 1.

What is the current status of the bill?

The Senate Education Committee made a "do pass" recommendation on the bill with DPI, CTE, and CDE amendments (which primarily clarified the governance structure under the transition). The bill is set to be voted on by the Senate on 01/30/2023.