



REQUEST TO EMERGENCY COMMISSION
SECRETARY OF STATE
 (See SFN 02580)

Received: 01/08/2026

Request #: 2160

Requestor Information

Department name: North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
 Department number: 201
 Name of contact person: Ann Ellefson
 Telephone number: (701) 328-2488

Purpose of Request

Is this request related to a state emergency? No
 Purpose of request: Increase in line item spending authority

Line Item	Amount
Salary Expenses	\$216,952
Operating Expenses	\$5,047,966

Funding Information

What is the source of funds for the requested increase? Federal
 Is the funding source a pass-through from another agency? No
 Will continued funding be required if Federal funds are no longer available? No
 Does the request require a general fund match in this bienium? No
 Will the request require general fund support in the next biennium? No

Background Information

Was any portion of the request presented during the previous legislative session? No
 Is the request for a new program? No
 Does the request require an FTE increase? No
 Does the request conform with legislative intent? Yes
 Provide explanation:
 The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI), in partnership with Amira Learning and WestEd, received funding from an Education Innovation and Research (EIR) grant to expand AI-enabled tutoring statewide, supporting local champions and teachers to integrate Amira with high-fidelity in grades K-5. The project aims to enhance the fidelity of implementation; improve decoding, fluency, and comprehension; increase English, Language Arts proficiency; and produce rigorous evidence on cost-effectiveness and implementation fidelity, yielding a scalable model for literacy growth and replication in rural settings.

Other Information

Statutory provisions that relate to this request:
 There is no specific North Dakota State Statute addressing this request; however, in the 2023 and 2025 biennium, the North Dakota Legislative Assembly provided state funding for Amira Learning to be implemented in schools and districts across North Dakota. This grant will build upon this investment and increase the fidelity of implementation.

Provide an explanation as to how the request supports state priorities, improves state efficiencies, and promotes effective state government:
 This grant was written to specifically address and align to the ND PK-12 Strategic Vision. Specifically, 1) to establish systems to support the delivery of literacy instruction, 2) to ensure educators are prepared and supported in delivering effective literacy instruction, and 3) to ensure all students achieve proficiency in literacy.



Provide any other relevant information:

The 2026-2031 EIR grant will total \$10M over the course of five years. Given the budget limitations of the Emergency Commission, the NDDPI is only asking for authority of the first two years of these funds. The NDDPI will use the legislative budget process for the remainder of the funding authority.

Signature

I, the undersigned, have read this Request, know the contents, and believe the statements contained within to be true.

Ann Ellefson

01/08/2026

Sign Here

Date