



K12
COORDINATION
COUNCIL
MAXIMIZING IMPACT

2023 Report

1) MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Each meeting that the Governor is in, we hear about gratitude. This is a timely topic for the Council this year as there is much that we can be grateful for regarding the last year. The legislature, the Governor's Office, the Department of Public Instruction, and, most importantly, the schools have been working tirelessly to create the best education environment possible in the US.

While this is our last year with Governor Burgum, the Council has benefitted from having the Executive Branch so involved in education. The Governor's office has helped to bring programs to the surface, enhance programs that are working, and offer support for those that need it to be successful. Whether it be a task force on innovation or a task force for teacher retention and recruitment, moving forward with intention is always observed. Governor Burgum, thank you for the Innovation Summits, the leadership during turmoil, and the focus on improving results for our students.

Our legislature has seen the difficulties of education. Some have taken it upon themselves to dive into schools, shadowing students, serving on educational committees, and truly getting to know how ND schools work. This has led to many bills that have made the task of taking education in ND to the next level an achievable task. Unfortunately, some bills have made it harder for educators to Be Legendary. Due to many legislators hard work and listening we have childcare programs to help with retaining teachers with infants, providing programming to listen to educators and create supportive school environments to ensure teacher retention and recruitment, and local leadership have been empowered to keep their school functioning at high levels. A huge thank you goes out to our local legislators who have listened when the field calls, emails, or testifies.

The ND DPI has been managing several programs to assist schools come out of the pandemic with the most substantial federal funding in decades. This could have severely hampered the staff in providing guidance, yet Superintendent Baesler and her staff have been managing ESSER funds, gathering working groups, creating plans with partners, and providing opportunities in a multitude of ways. Efforts to increase reading, math, life skills, school funding, staffing, and many others have been offered to districts who can choose which best fit them and how to advance on their terms. While the ND DPI must enforce compliance according to our own laws, thank you for always offering support and guidance through funding, opportunities, brainstorming, alignment, and engaging.

Finally, teachers, principals, and superintendents have been bending over backwards to gain a better of understanding of how best to make improvements in their schools so that students can learn. The Council has benefitted from having key representatives from different positions in schools there to center our discussions on what is needed in a state system to support our students. Thank you for always being there with students, making education in ND better. In spite of the constant changes, you keep one thing crystal clear; our kids matter!

This report will outline the work of the Council in the past year, but I wish for you to hear the sentiments of the members clearly. Schools matter. Educators matter. We do this work for and with you to create and sustain opportunities for students. I ask anyone reading this report to do one thing, if nothing else. Pass the gratitude on and tell a teacher why they matter.



Luke Schaefer
Council Chairman

2) INTRODUCTION TO THE K12 EDUCATION COORDINATION COUNCIL

The K12 Education Coordination Council was established through Senate Bill 2215 during the 2019 legislative session. The 20-member Council consists of legislators, executive branch leaders, and educators.



Gov. Doug Burgum
9/5/2019 - Open



Kirsten Baesler
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction
9/5/2019 - Open



Luke Schaefer
Council Chairman, Regional
Education Association Director
9/1/2023 - 8/31/2027



Nick Archuleta
ND United President
9/5/2019 - Open



Alexis Baxley
School Boards Association
Executive Director
7/15/2022 - Open



Marc Bluestone Sr.
Tribal School Representative
9/1/2021 - 8/31/2025



Jared Bollom
North Dakota School
Counselor Association
9/1/2023 - Open



State Sen. Ryan Braunberger
Senate Minority Legislative
Assembly Member
6/20/2023 - Open



Brandt Dick
ND Small Organized
Schools Board Member
9/1/2019 - Open



Justin Fryer
North Dakota Council of
Educational Leaders
9/1/2023 - Open



State Rep. Pat Heinort
House Majority
6/19/2019 - Open



Sara Medalen
Public School Elementary
Teacher Representative
9/1/2023 - 8/31/2027



Sonia Meehl
State Board for Career
& Technical Education
7/28/2022 - Open



Jeremy Mehlhoff
Public School Principal
Representative
9/1/2023 - 8/31/2027



Dr. Sarah Ricks
Public School Secondary
Teacher Representative
9/1/2023 - 8/31/2027



State Sen. Donald Schaible
Senate Majority Legislative
Assembly Member
6/20, 2023 - Open



State Rep. Cynthia Schreiber-Beck
Legislative Management
Assemble Member
6/20/2023 - Open



Beth Slette
Public School Administrator
Representative
9/1/2023 - 8/31/2027



Melissa Vollmer
Special Education
Unit Representative
9/1/2022 - 8/31/2026



Dr. Jennifer Weber
Statewide Longitudinal Data
System Committee
9/1/2021 - 8/31/2025

COLLABORATION & COORDINATION

The Council is composed of twenty stakeholders from various backgrounds, including legislators, the governor, the state superintendent, school administration, teachers, and education associations. It is a diverse group that wrestles with the many important and intentional tasks given to us by the legislature. While each agency works to achieve its individual mission, together we see a chance to create efficiencies, but more importantly, more effective ways of providing ND students with a world-class education. Specifically, the Council is tasked with the following:



Assist in the implementation, dissemination, and communication of the statewide strategic vision and evaluate progress toward meeting the identified goals and strategies.



Perform a continuous review of the effectiveness and efficiency of access and delivery of education services and programs in the state.



Identify opportunities for increased collaboration among state education entities and stakeholders.



Identify gaps or duplications in education services and programs and provide recommendations for addressing those gaps or duplications.



Study and evaluate new and emerging educational initiatives and trends and provide recommendations for policy changes to state entities or the legislative assembly if necessary.



Support the implementation, dissemination, and communication of local or regional educational initiatives and practices, including innovative education programs, on a statewide level.



Be a communication and information hub to provide the public and interested parties with seamless access to state entities that deliver education services and programs.

GOVERNOR DOUG BURGUM ON K12 COORDINATION

Governor Doug Burgum



3) COORDINATION

ASPIRATIONAL GOALS

The most intense and technical work of the Council is by far the work of establishing aspirational goals for the Strategic Vision Framework. This work has been daunting, but through the work of a subgroup of educators and a subcommittee that will meet as frequently as twice per month, the 6 aspirational goals have been completed that correspond to the long-term goals.

Kirsten Baesler, North Dakota Superintendent of Public Instruction

Kirsten Baesler, North Dakota Superintendent of Public Ins...



DASHBOARD

[Insights.nd.gov](https://insights.nd.gov) is the state's official source for information about public education across North Dakota. The information is provided by partner agencies through the Statewide Longitudinal Data System and is brought about through the collaborative work efforts of the following North Dakota agencies: Dept. of Public Instruction, Career and Technical Education, ND University System, Job Service ND, Dept. of Commerce, school districts and workforce development programs.

About the State

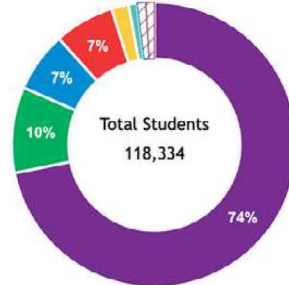
- Dashboards
 - State Summary
 - School Accountability
- + Academic Progress
- + Students
- + Post-Secondary Education
- + State Environment
- + Special Education Performance
- + Staff

North Dakota

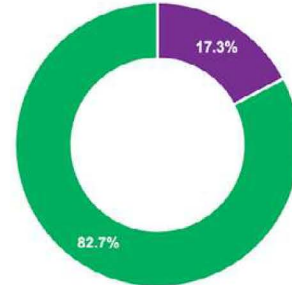
State Summary (2022-2023)

[Explanation](#)

Enrollment



Graduation Rate



Enrollment Groups

- White
- Black
- Asian American
- All Others
- Native American
- Hispanic
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Two or More Races

ND Insights has funding approved to expand and include a specific dashboard for the Strategic vision.

4) COLLABORATION

One of the key elements of our full council meetings is to conclude with a section on “timely topics.” This is 20-30 minutes dedicated to discussing the most timely or concerning issues of the day. These topics were used in a joint legislative interim Education Policy committee policy meeting. This was an insightful discussion with legislators scratching the surface of the current challenges and proposed solutions, such as teacher retention and recruitment strategies.



Photo of Luke Schaefer, Council Chairman presenting to the House and Senate Education Committees

5) POLICY WORK

LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATION

Luke Schaefer, Council Chairman



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Joint Meeting of House & Senate Education Committees

January 9, 2022

Presentation begins at 3:32:39 PM

[Click here to watch presentation »](#)

PRESENTATION OF ND HOUSE BILL NO. 1398

Mike Lefor, ND House Majority Leader



[Click here to watch presentation »](#)

6) 2023-25 SCOPE OF WORK

Luke Schaefer, Council Chairman

Luke Schaefer, Council Chairman





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