



## NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

### IMPORTANT 2020-2021 END-OF-YEAR INFORMATION

Please read the **pertinent information** below regarding Summer School, Spring Calendar, Annual North Dakota School Improvement Plan/Strategy Maps, and the North Dakota State Assessment.

#### 2021 State-Funded Summer School

The [State Automated Reporting System \(STARS\)](#) is now open for submission of the following state-funded summer school programs:

- Grades K-8 remedial
  - Note: the sixty-seventh legislative assembly is currently discussing HB [1436](#). This bill, if passed, would amend the remedial elementary summer school program to include ALL students in grades K-8, not just those considered remedial. More information will be forthcoming if the bill is passed.
- Grades 5-8 regular
- High school
- Driver Education

Schools are required to complete two reports for program approval:

1. The "Summer School Application" which includes program information such as the summer school contact, program enrollment, teacher assignments, etc.
2. The "2021 Summer School Licensed Personnel (MIS03)" with licensed personnel, summer school courses, total instructional hours, course start and end date, and course enrollment (this report is completed the same way as the fall MIS03).

The summer school application(s) and the MIS03 report must be submitted at the same time. If you need assistance with completing your STARS reporting, guidance and FAQs are available on the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) [website](#).

All summer school applications must be received 15 days prior to the start of your summer school program. The NDDPI will send a letter to the district confirming approval of your summer school program. **Only summer school programs that meet the provisions identified in the administrative rules and those that have received approval from the NDDPI, prior to the start of summer school, are eligible to receive state aid payments.**

**IMPORTANT:**

In the past, several schools began their summer school driver's education program (classroom and behind-the-wheel) without being approved by the NDDPI. As you can imagine, the consequences of not being approved could be disastrous. One accident can end an entire driver's education program for a school because of an inevitable lawsuit. In addition, technically an unapproved school/course is not legal and cannot be added to a high school transcript. It is vital that summer school driver's education courses are submitted to STARS PRIOR to the program starting so NDDPI staff can approve it. **If a school does not do this, the NDDPI will not reimburse the school for these courses.**

If you have questions, please contact [Angie Thomas](#) at (701) 328-2597 or [Kelsie Howes](#) at (701) 328-4571.

## 2020-2021 Spring Calendar

The [State Automated Reporting System \(STARS\)](#) Spring Calendar is now open to allow districts to edit their calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. Some important things to remember when completing your Spring Calendar:

- Enter all school breaks into the calendar (these will deduct from your total hours)
- Update all make-up or storm days (delete those you did not need or use/add any new days)
- Follow the [guidance](#) regarding days to hours to ensure your "Time Breakout Per Day in Minutes" is completed accurately
- Grades K through 6 must have a minimum of 962.5 hours of yearly instruction; and grades 7 through 12 must have a minimum of 1,050 hours of yearly instruction
- Follow your schools' grade configuration. If your school's configuration includes grades K-6 and 7-12, or K-8, you must complete the "Time Breakout Per Day" on both columns (if you have a separate elementary and high school, you must choose each school and only complete the applicable column)

The Spring Calendar report is **due June 1**. More information can be found on the NDDPI [website](#). If you have questions, please contact [Angie Thomas](#) at (701) 328-2597.

## Annual North Dakota School Improvement Plan and Strategy Maps

Thank you for your continuous improvement plan work throughout this difficult year. We want to provide you with a multitude of resources as you finish the 2020-21 school year and begin your planning for the 2021-22 school year.

### Strategic Thinking and Planning Process Resources:

- LINCspring Cycles – Strategic Thinking and Planning
  - [LINCspring Access Instructions](#)
  - For additional support contact [Auburn Keaveney](#) or [Tricia Banks](#)
- Continuous Improvement Resources:
  - [NDDPI PADLET](#)
  - [Continuous Improvement Resources Tab](#)

**Evaluating your Plan:**

- Live Webinar – March 25 at 10:00 am [Register here](#)
  - Join us for an overview of next steps for your North Dakota School Improvement Plan. This session will include information about the evaluating phase and copying your plan for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Evaluating your Current Plan in Strategies [Webinar](#)

**Starting your 2021-22 Continuous Improvement Plan:**

- [How to Copy Your Plan Document](#)

Remember that your new plan should be in the strategies tool by **May 1, 2021**.

If you have questions, please contact [Nicole Reeves](#) or [Betsy Deal](#).

## Spring 2021 North Dakota State Assessment (NDSA)

Preparations have begun for the Spring 2021 NDSA administration for English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA), Mathematics, and Science. This will be the first year of online administration (same platform as ELA and Mathematics) of the NDSA Science and it is important to remember that if your district opts to use the ACT for high school accountability, the NDSA Science (Grade 10) assessment is still required. It is also worth noting that all NDSA assessments have been moved to computer adaptive, in lieu of fixed form. The information necessary to prepare and administer the NDSA is available through the [NDSA Portal](#). Please also specifically reference the [NDSA Factsheet 2020-2021](#) for important information. If you have questions, please contact [Stan Schauer](#) at (701) 328-2224.

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