

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Date: January 14, 2009
Contact: Greg Gallagher, Standards and Achievement Director
Phone: (701) 328-1838
Fax: (701) 328-4770

U.S. Department of Education does not approve ND growth model proposal

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) has informed the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) that the ED has not approved the growth-to-standard model proposed by the NDDPI for the purposes of determining annual adequate yearly progress.

In a letter dated January 8, 2009, Dr. Kerri Briggs, Assistant Secretary within ED stated that the growth model proposed by the NDDPI did not pass the peer review process facilitated by the ED.

On October 15, 2008, the NDDPI submitted a formal proposal to administer a growth-to-standard accountability model that would identify below-proficient students as proficient who have demonstrated sufficient growth to reach grade-level expectations within three years. The ND growth-to-standard model followed an Arizona model, which had been previously approved. The ND growth-to-standard model mirrors the state's current status accountability model of determining adequate yearly progress, which has been approved by the ED, including the use of confidence intervals to ensure reliable determinations. The ED did not approve the ND growth-to-standard model because it replicated the assurance steps of the current status model and because it included a confidence interval.

The ND growth-to-standards accountability model can be accessed at the following address: http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/grants/model_proposal.pdf. Additional clarification

narrative regarding the model can be accessed at the following address:

<http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/grants/clarification%20.pdf>.

As a result of the ED determination, the 2008-09 adequate yearly progress determination process for schools, school districts, and the state will not include a growth model option.

-0-

For more information, contact Greg Gallagher, Standards and Achievement Director; Department of Public Instruction; 600 East Boulevard, 9th Floor; Bismarck, ND 58505-0440, (701) 328-1838, ggallagher@state.nd.us.