

The ND Department of Public Instruction (DPI) initiated a pilot project, called ND Moving to Improve Learning for Everyone (NDMILE). The 48 schools that elected to use the NDMILE process in the pilot year were able to satisfy several Department requirements through the use of this one efficient online tool, including the Title I Schoolwide Plan and Program Improvement Plan (both federally required), ND Professional Development Plan (state required), and the Parent Involvement Plan (optional).

After the pilot year, DPI approved the NDMILE as an option for schools to use for their education improvement work (NDAC 67-19-01-15). This option is available to schools starting with the 2011-12 school year adding to the list of reporting requirements that can be satisfied through the NDMILE. In the future, the NDMILE has the potential to include other federal and state department reporting requirements to make for a more unified system that includes all units in the DPI.

The NDMILE is a web-based tool that guides improvement teams through a continuous cycle of assessment, planning, implementation, and progress tracking of research-based indicators. The school teams have a clear focus of their assigned responsibilities and their school reform efforts are synchronized. During the first year in the process schools using the NDMILE for their Education Improvement will assess the indicators to determine the level of importance each indicator has for their school. In the years to follow schools will be required to have 10 active indicators that have plans, tasks and evidence of implementation. As an indicator becomes fully implemented the school will select another indicator so schools are continuously working on 10 indicators. Three submission periods are required annually.

Each school has a DPI contact person who offers technical assistance through the process. The DPI has also contracted with 12 regional capacity builders who are available to provide support to the NDMILE schools. To ensure success for schools, the DPI is committed to providing technical assistance and support for schools as they work on the process. Funding sources and availability of funding will determine the level of support schools will be able to receive. In the future, there is the potential for regional support of the NDMILE to be effectively facilitated through the REAs.

The Department worked with the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) while they developed their tool, Native Star. Native Star is the comparable tool and process used by the BIE schools. The NDMILE indicators and reporting timelines are aligned with those used by the BIE schools. With both entities using similar tools this has been a precedent setting time when the state and BIE education departments are working collaboratively to reduce duplicate reporting historically required by both entities.

FEATURES OF THE NDMILE

- **Innovation.** NDMILE is a web-based framework to guide high-quality work by the school with built-in flexibility to encourage local innovation.
- **Indicator Based.** Indicators are the backbone of NDMILE. School teams assess their current position relative to each NDMILE indicator in the following categories: School Leadership and Decision Making, Curriculum Assessment and Instructional Planning, Classroom Instruction, and School and Community.
- **Research Alignment.** The Wise Ways® tool within the NDMILE links each indicator to a brief summary of related research examples and resources.
- **Capacity.** NDMILE builds the school's capacity by analyzing the effectiveness of their school improvement process.
- **Documentation.** NDMILE provides practical web-based documentation for creating agendas, recording minutes, assigning responsibilities, setting timelines, coaching, and monitoring the degree of implementation.
- **Operational Data.** NDMILE assists schools in gathering operational data including school and classroom practices that contribute to student learning. In order for student performance to improve, the classroom practices must be examined.
- **Electronic Reporting.** NDMILE allows schools to electronically submit required documents to satisfy federal and state requirements.
- **Progress Tracking.** NDMILE provides real time charts and reports which track and display the school's progress for key stakeholders at the building, district, and community levels.
- **Unique to State.** NDMILE is a unique system accessible through the Department of Public Instruction website and aligned with the existing improvement initiatives.

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NDMILE

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