



NDMILE

North Dakota Moving to Improve Learning for Everyone

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is CII? (links)

The Center on Innovation & Improvement (CII) (www.centerii.org) works alongside regional comprehensive centers to identify the challenges facing state education departments and to provide districts, schools and families with the opportunity, information and skills to make wise decisions on behalf of students.

Then CII calls upon its Scientific Council to combine the relevant research and generate ideas to meet the challenges and solve problems. But research-based concepts are not enough. CII's technical advisors and staff, with a variety of experience in schools, districts, and state and federal education departments, pass the good ideas through the sieve of common sense, converting them into practical applications to place in the hands of the state agencies. Getting the desired results means sticking with the work, and CII maintains strong consulting and problem-solving support for the regional centers and the states.

2. Is there a cost to participate in NDMILE?

There is no cost for schools to participate in the NDMILE. The Center on Innovation and Improvement is federally funded which makes the NDMILE available to the state of ND free of charge.

3. Does this tool follow federal guidelines?

Crosswalks between the NDMILE indicators, Federal Register, and NCLB requirements have been completed and are available at the state Title I office upon request.

4. Will this tool be mandated by DPI?

Participation in NDMILE is not mandated by DPI at this time. We are piloting this online tool to see how it can best meet the needs of North Dakota districts, schools, and the state.

5. Who do we contact for more information or to begin the NDMILE process?

Lois Myran, NDMILE Project Director, 701-328-2629 or lmyran@nd.gov.

6. Are all ND schools using the NDMILE tool?

Currently there are 38 North Dakota schools using the tool. It is hoped that eventually all North Dakota schools will be using this online tool.

7. How do we know that participating in the NDMILE will improve our school and increase student achievement?

NDMILE includes indicators of evidence-based practices at the district, school and classroom levels to improve student learning. Over the past several years the tool has been researched. Research demonstrates that in Virginia districts, schools and classrooms using this tool has been gained in both reading and mathematics in 26 out of 27 schools.

8. Are private schools eligible to participate in the NDMILE?

Private schools are eligible to participate in NDMILE. Currently, only North Dakota public schools are participating in NDMILE. If private schools are interested in participating, they are encouraged to contact the Department of Public Instruction.

9. Will the number of key indicators change?

It is anticipated the number of key indicators will remain the same. The overall indicators available on the tool may continue to grow as additional research is reviewed.

10. What is the expected timeline?

Schools participating in NDMILE will be held to the timelines. It is imperative that schools participating in the NDMILE to fulfill Title I Schoolwide Planning or Title I Program Improvement requirements follow the timeline. Failure to do so could lead to non-compliance with federal legislation.

11. What is the result turnaround time?

The turnaround for seeing improvement in student achievement will be different for each school. An increase in student achievement will depend upon the dedication, implementation, and commitment of the schools. The NDMILE is only one of factors that will assist in increasing student achievement. Remember, it is not the tool that achieves results it is how the tool is implemented and used.

12. How do we use this tool to effectively impact instruction?

The NDMILE has 168 indicators that have been researched by The Center on Innovation and Improvement. They have done the research so that educators can spend their time using the indicators in their planning and teaching. The majority of indicators focus on planning, curriculum, instruction and assessment. Educators plan and collaborate on how each indicator will be implemented in their school. This process strengthens the instruction in the school and benefits students. The NDMILE has a research document called Wise Ways® for each of the indicators. This provides teachers with current research that is easily accessed.

13. How do the indicators of this tool relate to our schoolwide, program improvement and school improvement plans?

Crosswalks between the NDMILE indicators, Federal Register, and NCLB requirements have been completed and are available at the state Title I office upon request.

Although under review by the department, the NDMILE will not substitute for the State Education Improvement Process (SEIP).

14. If doing this for Schoolwide planning and Program Improvement planning, how many plans/accounts do we need to have?

Schoolwide

Schoolwide planning and developing a schoolwide plan is a school building requirement. A NDMILE Title I Schoolwide Plan is to be done at the building level and based on leadership for the building. If a district has more than one building then each building must develop a separate schoolwide plan in the NDMILE tool. Due to the unique nature of rural schools in North Dakota, there may be flexibility to develop a consolidated or joint plan. Special permission with justification must be requested for permission to write a K-12 or joint schoolwide plan. Unless a school has submitted a prior request with approval from the state Title I office, schools must submit a building level NDMILE Title I Schoolwide Plan.

The steps and form necessary to request a K-12 or joint schoolwide plan are available on the Title I Schoolwide website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/schlwide/index.shtm. This information applies only to Schoolwide, not Program Improvement. Schools identified for Program Improvement must write building level plans.

Program Improvement

NCLB identifies schools for improvement at the building level, not the district level. For this reason, schools must develop their own NDMILE tool unique to their individual data and needs. Schools are encouraged to work together in the planning, development, assessment, and evaluation phases of improvement; however, in the end each school is responsible for submitting its own NDMILE Title I School Program Improvement Plan.

The NDMILE Title I School Program Improvement Plan should reflect the grade levels as reported on the school's AYP report. For instance, if a district's AYP reports are broken out into two school levels with the elementary representing K-8 and high school representing 9-12, then each school would need to complete the NDMILE to fulfill Title I program improvement requirements. In this scenario, both the elementary school and high school would complete the NDMILE tool. The Title I program improvement law requires plans (in this case NDMILE tool) to be written at each building level.

15. What reports will be replaced by using the NDMILE?

Schools participating in the NDMILE will fulfill the following reporting requirements through the online tool:

- Title I School Program Improvement Plan (NDMILE Cohort I Only)
- Title I School Corrective Action and Alternative Governance Documentation (NDMILE Cohort I Only)
- Title I Schoolwide Plan
- Title I Schoolwide Revisions to the Schoolwide Plan (Annual Review must be documented in meeting agenda and minutes in the NDMILE)
- Portions of the Professional Development Plan

Supplemental reporting is also available on the NDMILE dashboard to ensure the tool meets federal reporting requirements of schoolwide and program improvement.

16. What if we don't see improvement, are there consequences?

Implementing and sustaining reform practices is very difficult and does not happen overnight. Schools must provide documentation of their best efforts to show progress and forward momentum through the NDMILE. The only consequences or sanctions for schools not seeing improvement would be those outlined in NCLB and Title program improvement.

17. Do we need to form another team, besides our SEIP or building support team? Who must be part of the team and how many members?

Decisions regarding the team used to oversee the NDMILE are up to the school; however, the department encourages schools to use or modify an existing improvement team's responsibilities to include NDMILE. The NDMILE process ties nicely with other improvement initiatives (i.e., schoolwide, program improvement).

The principal must be the leader of the team as they are responsible for school reform and improvement. Again, decisions regarding who is part of the team or the number of team members are up to the schools. Schools are encouraged to review the Wise Ways[®] regarding teaming to assist in making these decisions.

18. How does NDMILE fit in with the ND Professional Development Plan?

All districts are required to submit their ND Professional Development Plan through the district NDMILE site. Login information will be provided to each district. NDMILE districts may use the NDMILE indicators and plans to answer questions in the ND Professional Development Plan when appropriate. Eventually there will be an electronic link for indicators that are used in the Professional Development Plan. This will help to reduce any duplication in reporting.

19. Will it link with other data systems?

This is a stand-alone system with no direct link to other state data systems. DPI does have the ability to download the data and upload to the various state systems as needed.

20. How secure is the information?

All data is stored on a server following current industry standards for data security. User access to the data is granted via role based passwords.

21. How will data be pulled for reports?

From the main menu, click on "Resources and Reports" in the upper right corner; select "Reporting" from the dropdown menu. Select an area of interest from the list provided. This generates a viewable report from that section; to download the report, select a format from the dropdown menu (XML, CSV, PDF, MHTML, Excel, TIFF, or Word) and select "Export" to the right of the dropdown list. This document can also be printed directly from this screen by selecting the printer icon.

22. How will the public see the data?

All schools will be provided with a guest password. The guest password can be distributed to stakeholders in order to grant them access to non-editable versions of "Indicator Summary" and "Progress Percentages by Section" graphs and a "Comprehensive Plan Report." These views are similar to the "Where Are We Now" option provided to schools. All files can be downloaded.

23. Where do I go for technical assistance (TAPs information, logins, passwords, etc.)?

Contact your State Technical Assistance Provider (TAP). If you are unsure who your TAP is or one has not been provided, contact Lois Myran at lmyran@nd.gov or 701-328-2629. For login and password information contact Jane Gratz at jmgratz@nd.gov or 701-328-3266. For technical assistance questions contact Steve Snow at fsnow@nd.gov or 701-328-2189 or email Indistar@adi.org.

24. When will the second cohort group start?

It is anticipated the next cohort group will begin training in the fall of 2010.

25. Which other states are using this tool?

The states currently using the CII tool include Virginia, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Idaho, Arkansas, Nevada, Alaska and North Dakota.

26. When will district NDMILE be available?

The district NDMILE will be available for use in early fall 2010. All ND school districts will receive a district login and password. The requirement for the North Dakota Professional Development Plan will be accessed and submitted through the district NDMILE.