

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
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Guidance on ELL/LEP Title I Services

School districts are required by federal law to identify, assess, and provide services to students who qualify as English Language Learners or Limited English Proficient (ELL/LEP). In addition, North Dakota State law requires each school district to provide a program of instruction if a student is identified as an ELL/LEP student.

Many school districts have expressed an interest in using their Title I funds to provide services for ELL/LEP students. Just as with special education, school districts must first have a program and services in place to serve ELL/LEP students using state or local funds. Title I funds can then be used to provide additional services to supplement the state/local services that are in place.

Regarding staffing to provide supplemental services to ELL/LEP students, school districts must employ credentialed personnel to complete these duties. Any staff member paid with Title I funds to provide supplemental services to ELL/LEP students must either hold an ELL/LEP endorsement or a Title I credential.

School districts planning to use Title I funds to provide supplemental services to ELL/LEP students must provide a description of these services on the district's consolidated application. Title I services for ELL/LEP students must be supplementary to the regular ELL/LEP program within the school district.

For questions on the use of Title I funds for an ELL/LEP program, you may contact Laurie Matzke at lmatzke@nd.gov or (701) 328-2284. Additional information regarding Bilingual and Language Acquisition Programs can be accessed at www.dpi.state.nd.us/bilingul/index.shtm on the Department of Public Instruction website.