



Department of Public Instruction
600 E Boulevard Ave., Dept. 201, Bismarck, ND 58505-0440
(701) 328-2260 Fax - (701) 328-2461
<http://www.dpi.state.nd.us>

Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead
State Superintendent

To: School District Administrators

From: Robert V. Marthaller, Assistant State Superintendent

Date: August 17, 2011

RE: Department of Public Instruction Clarification on Funding Sources for Prekindergarten Programs

The purpose of this memo is to provide clarification regarding the Department's understanding of allowable funding sources to operate public school district prekindergarten programs.

During the 2011 Legislative Session, language was proposed to amend the current law to cite in statute that local school districts could use local tax revenues to operate public school district prekindergarten programs; however, this language was not passed into law. The current North Dakota Century Code (15.1-09-58) indicates that school districts have the authority to establish prekindergarten programs and operate them if the following funding sources are available or utilized:

- State moneys specifically appropriated for the program (currently no funds are appropriated)
- Federal funds specifically appropriated or approved for the program (i.e., Special Education, Title I, Head Start, Title I ARRA, Federal JOBS funds, REAP)
- Gifted funds specifically for the program (i.e., gifts from community, trust fund from former student)
- Granted funds specifically for the program (i.e., fundraisers)
- Tuition (i.e., parents pay a fee for the program)
- Donations specifically for the program (i.e., organized donations from city)

If districts would like to use funding sources other than those outlined in the North Dakota Century Code, the Department suggests the district consult local legal counsel before doing so.

The NDDPI has recently named Tara Bitz as the Department's central contact for all prekindergarten/preschool related issues. If you have questions regarding the Department's understanding of these allowable funding sources outlined in the North Dakota Century Code, please contact Tara at 701-328-4646 or tbitz@nd.gov.