

## 2011 – 62<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Assembly – Bills Affecting Title I

After each legislative session, the Department of Public Instruction makes available a document entitled “Summary of Laws Passed by the Legislative Assembly Impacting Elementary and Secondary Education”. This document will be available on the department’s website later this summer. The following issues may affect Title I programming:

- **SB 2150 Commission on Education Improvement**  
[www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/62-2011/documents/11-0208-12000.pdf](http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/62-2011/documents/11-0208-12000.pdf)
- **Early Childhood Education** – There were some updates in the area of Early Childhood Education during the session:
  - ✓ The 2011 North Dakota State Legislature did not appropriate funds specifically for PK programming.
  - ✓ There were several bills that have attempted to revise the language in state law to give authority for districts to use state or local funds for PK. SB 2150 removed authority for districts to use state or local funds for PK. The department is working to develop guidance on this issue.
  - ✓ In the department’s bill, SB 2150, there are flow-through funds to NDSU Extension Service to help support the Gear Up for Kindergarten program in the amount of \$625,000.
  - ✓ In SB 2150, language was added to state law to require the provision of kindergarten.
  - ✓ Students must be age 4 before August 1 to be enrolled in a pre-kindergarten program.
- **Alternative Middle School Grants** – Within SB 2150, the department’s bill, there is a new provision which provides \$300,000 for grants for the 2012-2013 school year to school district’s that provide an alternative education program for students enrolled in grades six through eight. Jerry Coleman, the department’s finance director, will provide more information and guidance on this program in the future.

- **SB 2013 DPI Budget**  
[www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/62-2011/documents/11-8163-06000.pdf](http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/62-2011/documents/11-8163-06000.pdf)
- **Education Jobs Fund Program** – Last fall, North Dakota received \$21.5 million for the Education Jobs Fund Program. The period of eligibility for obligating the funds extends through September 30, 2012. An option districts should consider is using these funds to keep school level staff hired with ARRA stimulus dollars employed for another year. Questions regarding these funds can be directed to Jerry Coleman, School Finance Director, at [jcoleman@nd.gov](mailto:jcoleman@nd.gov) or Stephanie Gullickson, Grants Manager, at [sgullickson@nd.gov](mailto:sgullickson@nd.gov). Information regarding the Education Jobs Funds Program, including guidance, allocations, forms, question and answer documents, and more can be accessed at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/finance/finance/index.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/finance/finance/index.shtm) on the department’s website.
- **Summer School** – Each legislative session, the North Dakota State Legislature provides funding through the state aid payment for summer school. Districts using Title I funds for summer school must ensure that the Title I summer school program is at a separate time than the state-funded summer school program or that a Title I summer school program builds on or adds to a state-funded program for Title I students.

#### **Reminders from the 2009 ND Legislative Session**

- **Student Performance Strategist** – The 2009 North Dakota legislative session incorporated funding for and mandated that each district have one (1) full FTE “student performance strategist” for every 400 K-3 students. This requirement went into effect for the 2010-2011 school year. There were no changes to this section of law during the 2011 legislative session. However, over the past year there have been some potential supplanting violations with regard to the student performance strategist position.
- **State Funding for Interim Assessment** – The 2009 North Dakota Legislative Session, in HB 1400, incorporated state funding for North Dakota school districts for an interim assessment (NWEA). Since it is now in state law, and districts are receiving funds to pay for NWEA, districts may not use Title I funds to pay for this interim assessment.
- **State Funding for PowerSchool** – The 2009 North Dakota Legislative Session, in HB 1400, incorporated state funding for North Dakota school districts for PowerSchool. Since it is now in state law that districts are receiving funds to pay for PowerSchool, districts may not use Title I funds to pay for PowerSchool.