

Sustaining Educational Excellence for North Dakota Students

Accomplishing Effective and Durable Change to Reduce Student Achievement Gaps

Partnership Highlights

- ❖ North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) partnered with the Region 11 Comprehensive Center (R11CC), North Dakota Regional Education Association (NDREA), and North Dakota University system to support a statewide process for school renewal continuous improvement work in Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) and Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools.
- ❖ NDDPI established partnership project teams with expertise from research and practice and representation from the state and regional education agencies—structured into core, implementation, and guidance groups. Regular meetings synchronized efforts to ensure alignment.
- ❖ NDDPI co-developed with the NDREA a statewide continuous improvement coaching framework that has been implemented to support ND CSI and TSI school teams.
- ❖ NDDPI worked with the ND legislature to create Senate Bill 2254 in support of building a robust statewide intervention to support second-cycle CSI schools.



ND Department of Public Instruction

Project focus: CREATING A STATEWIDE CONTINUOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

The NDDPI co-developed the **North Dakota School Renewal Guide** with the R11CC, NDREA, districts, and schools in 2021. Since then, they **annually updated** the guide to incorporate insights, feedback, and changes in the TSI and CSI school landscapes. To ensure the guide provides an objective measure to evaluate the effectiveness of school renewal efforts, NDDPI created and tested a **progress scale tool**. They also **conducted annual trainings** for CSI and TSI school renewal teams, and met each trimester with stakeholders to **discuss progress, challenges, and strategies**.

"I really like where we are with our schools. We know more about what the schools are doing than we've ever known."

—Rachel Tabler, NDDPI



ND Regional Education Association

Project focus: BUILDING CAPACITY

As the **liaisons** between NDDPI and schools, NDREA provides **coaching and support**. They convened regular meetings and forums to support job-embedded **professional learning (PL)** through **school renewal community of practice efforts** and held check-in meetings. The development of a **progress scale tool** and completion of **empathy interviews** helped ensure they provide fair evaluations of the effectiveness of school renewal efforts and have practical data on resource and PL needs. They also created a **resource hub knowledge management site** to provide easy access to renewal resources.

Once NDREA joined the partnership, "we had alignment across all parts of the K–12 education system to support each school team with implementing their change."

—Ben Cronkright, R11CC

Our Journey Forward

The NDDPI, NDREA, and CSI/TSI schools will continue their work with one another. Regular meetings with partnership project teams, trimester check-ins between NDDPI and NDREA staff, and trimester stakeholder meetings will ensure alignment of project goals and offer opportunities to discuss progress, challenges, and strategies related to improvement projects. Additional work will include the following:

ND Department of Public Instruction

- ❖ **Update** the school renewal guide to incorporate insights, feedback, and changes.
- ❖ **Review** the NDREA contract and memorandum of understanding and continue to refine their partnership.
- ❖ **Conduct** annual training for CSI and TSI schools.
- ❖ **Further develop** plans to support the implementation of a statewide continuous improvement process dedicated to supporting second-cycle CSI schools (ND FIRST).

REA Liaisons and Coaches

- ❖ **Convene** regular meetings and forums to support the school renewal community of practice efforts.
- ❖ Continue to **identify evidence-based practices** to support a resource hub knowledge management site to provide easy access to renewal resources.

CSI and TSI Schools

- ❖ **Participate** in NDDPI meetings and trainings.
- ❖ **Meet monthly** with REA liaisons/coaches.
- ❖ **Use** evidence-based practices to support improvement efforts.