

NESC Joint Governing and Administrative Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 12:30 p.m.
Lake Region State College, Devils Lake, ND

Board Members present: Jay Slade, Dakota Prairie; Ned Clouten, Devils Lake; Dr. Frank Schill, Edmore; Jeff Olson, Four Winds; Rhandi Knutson, LRSE; Daren Christianson, Langdon Area; Ben Allmaras, Maddock; Kent Dennis, Minnewaukan; Robert Bubach, Munich; Sarah Beck-Connot, Starkweather; Jackie Thompson, Tate Topa; and Mary Langley, Warwick.

Board Members not present: Sheri Olson, Devils Lake; Stacy Benz, Fessenden/Bowdon; Dr. Kelly Peters, Lakota; Gil Black, Kensal; Dr. Doug Darling, LRSC; Jeff Manley, Leeds; Kristi Halvorson, Midkota; Dave Ambers, Minnewaukan; Brad Nash, Mount Pleasant-Rolla; Natalie Becker, New Rockford/Sheyenne; Donna Sorensen, NDSD; Aimee Zachrisson, North Star; Jordan Brown, Oberon; Amber Krapp, Pingree/Buchanan; Michelle Clouse, St. Joseph; and Angela Brandt, Warwick.

Others present: Jennifer Carlson, NESC Executive Director, and Erin Lacina, NESC Director of Professional Learning and Operations.

Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Daren Christianson, Governing Board President, at 12:30 p.m.

Review of Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

Board Minutes Approval

A motion to approve the October 9, 2024, minutes on pages 3-9 of the board packet was made by Robert Bubach, and seconded by Rhandi Knutson; motion carried.



Financial Report

Jennifer Carlson reviewed the February 12, 2025, financial report on page 10, and the 2025-2026 draft budget on page 11. The draft budget includes expenses for current staffing and other obligations for next year, as well as revenue that is estimated at this time. We anticipate to know more regarding revenue at the next meeting and will bring back information as it is available.

A motion was made by Jay Slade to approve the financial report and draft budget, Ned Clouten seconded; motion carried.

NESC Operations

NESC Audit

The NESC was notified that a single audit is required specifically for the 21st CCLC program because the grant revenue is over the funding threshold. Our fiscal agreement with DLPS included audit services within the district audit, but this funding falls outside the scope of that work. After contacting multiple sources including the state auditor and CPA firms across the state, we have one firm that expressed interest in the audit completion. The estimate is \$15,000 per audit, although one of the other firms that was contacted last fall thought the cost would be \$5,000, but was not sure if they would be able to do the work until after this tax season. We will reach back out to earlier contacts to see if we can secure an audit in the near future.

NESC Staff Agreements 2025-2026

The NESC currently has five staff, with salaries spread between NESC, TLC, NYCP, 21st CCLC, and TSI/CSI funding sources. A regional analysis of administrative and instructional coaching position salaries was conducted to ensure we are in-line with our member districts. A slight increase was included in the budgeted salaries and was reviewed by the board. Ben Allmaras made a motion to approve work agreements for the NESC staff for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, Robert Bubach seconded; motion carried.

Grants and Contracts/Professional Learning

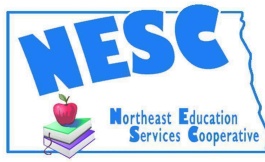
ND Standards and Standards-Based Learning Practices

[NDSBL Website](#) (featuring ND Priority Standards and K-12 proficiency scales) is a resource available to districts with updated ELA and Math resources and scales in multiple content areas. Pages 26-27 is a screenshot of the homepage for the website.

[Navigating Formative and Summative Assessment in the Classroom](#) is a professional learning series currently available and also archived on the NDSBL website.

[ND Educational Hub](#) courses available include the following:

- All About ELA Standards: From Basics to Best Practices



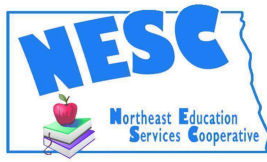
- All About Math Standards: From Basics to Best Practices
- Leveraging the ELA Standards
- Leveraging the Mathematics Standards

Science of Reading Training to support NDCC 15.1-21-12.1

- 1) [NDSoR Professional Development Impact](#) pages 12-13
- 2) [NDSoR LETRS Impact](#) pages 14-15
- 3) [NDSoR Contrary Practices in Literacy Instruction](#) pages 16-17
- 4) [Reading Curriculum and PD Annual Report](#) pages 18-23 - Many districts have reports due Fall 2025. Refer to the resources on this website in preparation.
- 5) [Supporting Learners in Reading Comprehension \(K-12\)](#) page 24
- 6) [Leveraging Reading Diagnostic Assessment Tools to Maximize Instructional Time](#) page 25

Effective Math Instruction Professional Learning

- 1) [ND SB2213 \(Math\)](#): “This bill introduces comprehensive reforms to mathematics education in North Dakota, focusing on improving mathematics instruction, teacher competency, and student learning. The bill requires school districts and nonpublic schools to develop mathematics curricula based on evidence-based research, with a focus on foundational skills like numbers, operations, algebraic reasoning, and data analysis, as well as key competencies such as problem-solving and reasoning. Teacher licensing requirements will be expanded to ensure that both elementary and secondary mathematics teachers demonstrate competency in mathematics instruction, with provisions for provisional licenses for candidates working to meet these standards. The bill mandates ongoing professional development for mathematics teachers, emphasizing best practices like explicit and differentiated instruction, and introduces a screening process for kindergarten through third-grade students to identify early mathematics deficiencies and characteristics of dyscalculia. Schools must implement formative assessments, targeted interventions, and research-based intervention programs to support student learning. The superintendent of public instruction is tasked with adopting rules to monitor implementation and provide periodic reports to the legislative management. To support these initiatives, the bill appropriates \$1,200,000 for district-level professional development, training, and coordination of mathematics improvement efforts, with an effective date of July 1, 2027, for certain provisions” from NDCEL Legislative Hub. A copy of the first draft of the bill is on pages 26-31, it was passed through the education committee 6-0 on 2/4/2025 and referred to appropriations.
- 2) Effective Instructional Strategies for Mathematics: Curriculum Materials Considerations for ND Schools - This will be released by the NDREA this Spring.
- 3) [Features of Effective Math Instruction - Retention](#) (Grades K-12) - April 10 / Devils Lake: Page 32 includes information on this workshop that investigates the



concept of learner retention and the importance of retrieval strategies to use in the classroom to increase math achievement.

[Beginning Teacher Network workshop series](#) is specifically designed for teachers in their first, second, or third years of the profession who want to improve student learning. Participants routinely meet and observe high-quality, high-impact practice through instructional rounds. The NESCS has 18 teachers from 9 districts enrolled. Pages 33-34 have more information.

NYCP Grant

Nothing has been reported from the US Department of Education on any changes to the award of the grant except for the encouragement to complete drawdowns of expenditures as they happen.

Other Professional Learning

[NESCS support for districts/schools](#) The NESCS has aligned strategy maps from our member schools to the professional development resources available through the NESCS and its partners. The [NESCS website](#) has been updated to reflect the aligned supports available. Pages 35-38 include the listing of supports.

PLC for International Teachers

The NESCS has the opportunity to provide a PLC in partnership with the NCEC; more information will be provided as it becomes available.

[CP²R Framework](#) is a new option for teacher evaluation that has been approved by DPI.

- i) [CP²R Classroom Observation Form](#); Pages 39-41 includes a summary of the tool.
- ii) [Teacher Evaluation: Levels Per Model](#) (ND Resource); Page 42

2025-26

NESCS Regional Fall In-service - August 15, 2025 / 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (Jimmy Casas); details are included on page 43.

Leaders' Virtual Book Study with Jimmy Casas (+ February 11, 2026 in-person workshop); info on page 43.

Educators' Virtual Book Study with Jimmy Casas and Shannon Myers; information is on page 44. The board determined session times will be at 3-4 p.m. for each session.



ALICE Active Shooter Training

TrainND NE is offering [ALICE Active Shooter](#) training to NESCS schools at a discounted price; information is on pages 45-46. Contact Erin Lacina for more information and to reserve a date.

NESCS Cafeteria Credit

Credit is available for NESCS professional learning events through Valley City State University. Information is on the NESCS website:

<https://www.nescs.k12.nd.us/graduate-credit/>.

Student Activities

21st CCLC Grant

DPI notified us that the 21st CCLC grant requires a single audit for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 fiscal years. This wasn't conducted within the Devils Lake Public School's audit process, which includes NESCS financials. Jennifer is reaching out to accounting firms with not much success; additional firms were suggested, and Jennifer will follow up with those options.

This year the 21st CCLC grant will undergo monitoring from DPI. This will require significant time and collaboration with involved sites.

The new 21st CCLC grant application RFP will be released later this Spring; the NESCS will apply for the five-year grant on behalf of eligible sites in our region.

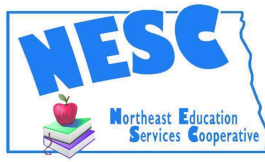
Technology Learning Cooperative

A [Padlet](#) for TLC is available as a resource for member schools, including embedded Padlets with information on all modules. A workshop for the Laser Engraver was held on January 20 in Maddock with 12 participants. The TLC Management Team will meet immediately following the NESCS meeting.

Other

Legislation Discussion

[ND SB2353](#): "This bill modifies two sections of North Dakota law related to regional education associations and state purchasing services. In the first section, the bill clarifies the requirements for regional education associations to receive state funding, simplifying language about the services they must provide to member districts. These services include coordinating professional development, providing technology support,



helping districts achieve school improvement goals, analyzing student achievement data, and expanding curricular offerings. The bill also explicitly allows regional education associations to offer additional services, including services to non-member districts and permits them to contract with the superintendent of public instruction. In the second section, the bill updates the state's purchasing services regulations, primarily by reorganizing existing language into a more structured format with numbered subsections. The bill adds a specific provision allowing the Department of Public Instruction to contract with regional education associations and maintains the existing list of exceptions to standard state procurement requirements. These changes aim to provide more clarity and flexibility for regional education associations and state purchasing procedures.” From the NDCEL Legislative Hub, a copy of the first version of the bill is available on pages 47-50.

2024-2025 NESCS Calendar

Page 51 has the [NESCS 2024-2025 calendar](#) with dates noted for meetings and other important events.

2025-2026 NESCS Calendar

Page 52 has the [2025-2026 NESCS Calendar](#) with dates noted for meetings and other important events.

Next NESCS Board Meeting

The next Joint Board Meeting will be held on April 9, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. at Lake Region State College.

Adjourn

Robert Bubach made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jay Slade seconded, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.