

**Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

SENATE BILL NO. 2196  
(Senators Schaible, Davison, Oban)  
(Representatives Heinert, Schreiber-Beck, Zubke)

AN ACT to create and enact a new subdivision to subsection 7 of section 15.1-01-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the duties of the kindergarten through grade twelve education coordination council; and to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 15.1-01-03, section 15.1-02-04, subsection 3 of section 15.1-21-02, and section 15.1-21-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the establishment of a North Dakota learning continuum and to instructional time and unit requirements.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 15.1-01-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. The state board of public school education shall:
  - a. Assist county committees in carrying out their duties.
  - b. Provide county committees with clerical assistance, plans of procedure, standards, data, maps, forms, and other materials, information, and services.
  - c. Appoint members to the county committee, if the county superintendent does not fulfill this duty, as provided for in section 15.1-10-01.
  - d. Provide oversight for regional education associations as required by chapter 15.1-09.1.
  - e. Establish and certify a North Dakota learning continuum to allow a district-approved, mastery framework policy to award units required under sections 15.1-21-01 and 15.1-21-02 and to waive unit instructional time requirements under section 15.1-21-03, upon the recommendation of the kindergarten through grade twelve education coordination council.

**SECTION 2.** A new subdivision to subsection 7 of section 15.1-01-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Review the North Dakota learning continuum and provide recommendations to the state board of public school education.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-02-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15.1-02-04. Superintendent of public instruction - Duties. (Effective through June 30, 2023)**

The superintendent of public instruction:

1. Shall supervise the provision of elementary and secondary education to the students of this state.
2. Shall supervise the establishment and maintenance of schools and provide advice and counsel regarding the welfare of the schools.
3. Shall supervise the development of course content standards.

4. Shall supervise the assessment of students.
5. Shall serve as an ex officio member of the board of university and school lands.
6. Shall keep a complete record of all official acts and appeals.
7. As appropriate, shall determine the outcome of appeals regarding education matters.
8. Shall direct school district annexation, reorganization, and dissolution and employ and compensate personnel necessary to enable the state board of public school education to carry out its powers and duties regarding school district annexation, reorganization, and dissolution.
9. Shall facilitate a process to review and update annually the statewide prekindergarten through grade twelve education strategic vision. The process must include input and participation from a steering committee that includes representatives of all state-level entities receiving state education funding and education stakeholder groups. Each steering committee member entity receiving state education funds shall provide components of the entity's strategic plan which are aligned to the statewide strategic vision. The steering committee shall prepare a collaborative report of the strategic plans of each committee member entity receiving state education funds. The superintendent shall provide the collaborative report and any updates to the strategic vision to the legislative management during each interim and to a joint meeting of the education standing committees during each regular legislative session.
10. Shall administer a student loan forgiveness program for individuals teaching at grade levels, in content areas, and in geographical locations identified as having a teacher shortage or critical need.
11. Shall facilitate the development and implementation of a North Dakota learning continuum in collaboration with the department of career and technical education, upon the recommendation of the kindergarten through grade twelve education coordination council.

**Superintendent of public instruction - Duties. (Effective after June 30, 2023)**

The superintendent of public instruction:

1. Shall supervise the provision of elementary and secondary education to the students of this state.
2. Shall supervise the establishment and maintenance of schools and provide advice and counsel regarding the welfare of the schools.
3. Shall supervise the development of course content standards.
4. Shall supervise the assessment of students.
5. Shall serve as an ex officio member of the board of university and school lands.
6. Shall keep a complete record of all official acts and appeals.
7. As appropriate, shall determine the outcome of appeals regarding education matters.
8. Shall direct school district annexation, reorganization, and dissolution and employ and compensate personnel necessary to enable the state board of public school education to carry out its powers and duties regarding school district annexation, reorganization, and dissolution.
9. Shall facilitate a process to review and update annually the statewide prekindergarten through grade twelve education strategic vision. The process must include input and participation from a steering committee that includes representatives of all state-level entities receiving state education funding and education stakeholder groups. Each steering committee member entity

receiving state education funds shall provide components of the entity's strategic plan which are aligned to the statewide strategic vision. The steering committee shall prepare a collaborative report of the strategic plans of each committee member entity receiving state education funds. The superintendent shall provide the collaborative report and any updates to the strategic vision to the legislative management during each interim and to a joint meeting of the education standing committees during each regular legislative session.

10. Shall facilitate the development and implementation of a North Dakota learning continuum in collaboration with the department of career and technical education, upon the recommendation of the kindergarten through grade twelve education coordination council.

**SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 15.1-21-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3. Each unit which must be made available under this section must meet or exceed the state content standards, unless a school district or governing board of a nonpublic high school has adopted a mastery framework policy and awards units based on the successful completion of the relevant portions of the North Dakota learning continuum. A mastery framework policy adopted by a school district or governing board of a nonpublic high school must identify the portions of the North Dakota learning continuum which must be mastered for a student to attain units necessary for high school graduation under section 15.1-21-02.2.

**SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15.1-21-03. High school unit - Instructional time.**

1. Except as provided in subsection 2, each unit must consist of at least one hundred twenty hours of student engagement per school calendar.
2. The following units must consist of at least one hundred fifty hours of student engagement per school calendar: natural sciences, agriculture, business and office technology, marketing, diversified occupations, trade and industrial education, technology education, and health careers.
3. The hour requirements of this section are subject to reductions resulting from the holidays and nonstudent contact days provided for in section 15.1-06-04.
4. This section does not apply to schools or school districts having block schedules approved by the superintendent of public instruction.
5. This section does not apply to units attained from a district-approved mastery framework under section 15.1-21-03.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2196.

Senate Vote:    Yeas 46            Nays 1            Absent 0

House Vote:    Yeas 90            Nays 2            Absent 1

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Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

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Secretary of State