

TESTIMONY
North Dakota Legislative Management – Budget Section
September 24, 2014
Valerie Fischer, Director of Safe & Healthy Schools
Department of Public Instruction

Good morning Chairman Pollert and members of the Legislative Management – Budget Section Committee. I’m Valerie Fischer, Director of Safe & Healthy Schools for the Department of Public Instruction. Today’s agenda requested a brief presentation on the purpose and status of three specific federal grant applications.

This past May, the Department was notified of three federal grant opportunities which would promote school and student safety and mental health. Two grants from the US Department of Education (DOE) – school climate and emergency operation management and one grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – school based mental health services, were available for State Education Agencies. The table provides a synopsis of the details:

Funding Agency	Grant Award & Duration	Date Available	Date Due	Grant Scope & Purpose
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)	\$1,900,000/yr (5 years)	May 9, 2014	June 16, 2014	Provide training to 1500 educators and community partners; address state level barriers; partner with DHS to improve student identification, screening, referral, treatment and re-entry.
US Dept of Education (USDOE)	\$750,000/yr (5 years)	May 9, 2014	June 20, 2014	Provide funds to five (5) LEAs to develop, enhance or expand PBIS systems to improve behavioral outcomes and learning conditions for students.
US Dept of Education (USDOE) Received grant notice 9.19.14	\$250,000 (18 months)	June 10, 2014	July 7, 2014	Provide onsite assessments and training to 75 rural school districts & communities relating to emergency management operations.

Given the short agenda time, I’ll not go into additional details, but am available to be contacted for more information or additional presentations. This concludes my testimony and I welcome any questions you may have or requests for additional information or presentations.