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MEMORANDUM

TO: North Dakota School Administrators
FROM: Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent
DATE: March 13, 2025
SUBJECT: Clarification on Summer School Reimbursement

It has come to my attention that NDDPI needs to provide clarity regarding the requirements for virtual summer school instruction and the conditions necessary for school districts to receive state reimbursement. Therefore, I want to ensure an accurate understanding of how funding applies to both traditional and virtual academy instruction during the regular school year and summer school.

Clarification on Funding Differences Between the Regular School Year and Summer School

In 2021, the North Dakota Legislature determined that virtual academies would receive funding at the same per-pupil rate as students attending brick-and-mortar schools, without some additional factors such as small, isolated schools. This decision required the state to establish separate calculations of Average Daily Membership (ADM) for students in traditional brick-and-mortar schools versus students in Virtual Academies within public school districts during the regular academic year.

To ensure accurate funding distribution:

- For a school district to enroll a student in their **brick-and-mortar school** and receive the increased per-pupil payment, that student must be attending classes in person at least 50% of the time.
- This **does not** apply to summer school, because summer school reimbursement is reimbursed on a weighting factor, not ADM.

Implications for Virtual Summer School

- Virtual summer school courses **are fully eligible for state reimbursement**. There is **no state requirement** that students must be in person 50% of the time to qualify for summer school funding.
- NDCDE Courses and District Authority: Students may take courses through the North Dakota Center for Distance Education (NDCDE) at no cost to the family. However, since schools and districts pay for the courses, they **retain the authority** to determine where and when these courses are delivered, as long as the school/district does not impose restrictions beyond what would apply to other course offerings, in-district or otherwise.

ND Center for Distance
Education
 Fargo, ND
(701) 298-4830

ND School for the Deaf /
RCDHH
 Devils Lake, ND
(701) 665-4400

ND State Library
 Bismarck, ND
(701) 328-2492

ND Vision Services /
 School for the Blind
 Grand Forks, ND
(701) 795-2700

Schools and districts should also be reminded that if a school district does not have a virtual academy where courses can be completed wholly online and/or their district policy or school policy requires in-person instruction for summer school, North Dakota Century Code § 15.1-07-25.4 states that “a resident school district cannot deny a student's open enrollment into an approved virtual school.” This provision ensures that students have the opportunity to participate in virtual instruction programs offered by other districts.

This clarification ensures that districts have accurate information when making decisions about summer school offerings. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Kolosky at (701) 328-2755.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued commitment to serving North Dakota students.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Baesler
State Superintendent