

Testimony
INTERIM EDUCATION COMMITTEE
By Greg Gallagher, Assessment Director
Department of Public Instruction
August 2, 2016

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Interim Education Committee:

I am Greg Gallagher, Assessment Director within the Department of Public Instruction. I have been asked to present impact data from the 2015-16 administration of the North Dakota State Assessment, regarding the reported number of parental refusal requests statewide.

The North Dakota State Assessment (NDSA), consisting of English language arts and mathematics sections, is administered annually statewide to all public school students in grades 3-8 and 11, approximating 57,000 students. Under the state's test administration practices, parents may exercise their right to refuse their child's participation in the administration of the NDSA. During the 2015-16 administration of the NDSA, parental refusal requests were recorded in the participation status section of the NDSA registration module by local school officials. In previous years, when the NDSA was administered under a different test delivery system, parental refusal requests were recorded on a separate test administration report by local school officials. These parental refusal reporting efforts are effectively comparable.

Data assembled to report parental refusals from the 2015-16 NDSA were compiled by Measured Progress, our state's NDSA contractor, and its test delivery subcontractor, American Institutes for Research, referencing data that are currently undergoing data cleaning and analysis. Since the data reported for the 2015-16 NDSA are still undergoing data cleaning and analysis, the results presented herein should be considered preliminary, unofficial, and potentially open to revision, following the completion of official reporting.

Listed below are the 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16 summary data of parental refusal requests on the NDSA. These data represent non-duplicated, student-level data.

Parental Refusal Requests
North Dakota State Assessment,
2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016

2013-14	39 students
2014-15	426 students
2015-16	348 students

Additional data cleaning is required to ensure a final, accurate count and to provide meaningful disaggregation and distribution of refusal across grades, districts, and sub-populations. Based on these preliminary data, parental refusals would approximate 0.6% of all participating public school students.

Mr. Chairman, this completes my testimony. I am available to respond to any questions.
Thank you.