

TESTIMONY
Senate Education Committee
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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lodee Arnold and I am an Assistant Director in the Office of Indian/Multicultural Education for the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI). I am here to provide an update on the state English language learner (ELL) grants.

The ELL grants were created and funded under Section 30 of SB 2031 in 2015. The grants have now come to the end of their first year of funding. The NDDPI funded four districts with the highest number of English Learners who were at level one or two English proficiency from the 2014-15 school year using average daily membership (ADM). The four school districts were Fargo, West Fargo, Grand Forks, and Bismarck Public Schools.

SB 2031 allowed for \$1,000,000 over the biennium of which we divided into two installments of \$500,000 per year. The allocations for the first year were as follows:

- Fargo Public Schools \$191,574
- West Fargo Public Schools \$149,021
- Grand Forks Public Schools \$124,983
- Bismarck Public Schools \$34,422

Each district submitted an application for the funds including a budget and budget narrative describing how the funds would serve students at levels one and two English proficiency. The districts proposed to use their funds in the following ways:

- Fargo Public Schools - Hire a licensed social worker, hire an ELL teacher, and purchase K-5 ELL curriculum for low proficiency levels
- West Fargo Public Schools - Hire a teacher at the Welcome Center, supplemental instructional materials, hire a licensed social worker, and an ELL teacher
- Grand Forks Public Schools - Hire ELL teachers
- Bismarck Public Schools - Hire an instructional aide, purchase leveled readers for the Welcome Center, and Imagine Learning for ELs

At the end of the fiscal year, districts were also required to submit a final financial statement with a request for funds to close out their year as of June 30, 2016. The districts are able to carry over unused funds to the 2016-17 school year. After closing out the 2015-16 school year, the balance of the grants are as follows:

- Fargo Public Schools \$38,462.93
- West Fargo Public Schools \$3,257.84
- Grand Forks Public Schools \$0.00
- Bismarck Public Schools \$27,620.40

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, this concludes my testimony and I am available to answer any questions.