NORTH Dakota | Center for Distance Education
Be Legendary.™

Going the Distance:
Monthly News & Updates

June–July 2023

NDCDE Needs Your Help: Survey Participation Request

As CDE continues to prepare for fall, we are requesting the help of North Dakota public and private schools with estimating how many additional adjuncts we'll need to support two new laws, which are summarized below.

Cybersecurity and computer science (HB 1398): CDE sent a preliminary needs assessment survey this spring to determine which districts need our help responding to these new curricular requirements. We now need your assistance **finalizing** cybersecurity and computer science enrollment numbers. As a reminder, for **this school yea**r, under HB 1398, all approved schools must do the following:

- By August 2023: Provide computer science and cybersecurity instruction to elementary and middle school students and make available one unit of computer science or cybersecurity at the high school level (computer science can be offered as a math course; computer science and cybersecurity can be offered as science courses)
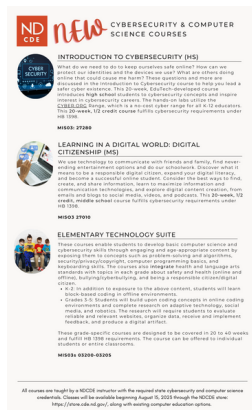
HB 1398 & 1376 survey
DEADLINE JULY 17

Virtual school choice: HB 1376 takes effect on **August 1, 2023**. This bill expands virtual school choice options for students through the following:

- A provision is added requiring school districts to pay the cost of NDCDE tuition for enrolled students
- Removes the stipulation that a school district/administrator can deny a student's enrollment in NDCDE courses
- Allows a student to open enroll in any approved virtual school (see NDCC 15.1-06-06 for approval criteria), including those run by another North Dakota school district

NDCDE is committed to maintaining its strong partnership with state school districts once this law takes effect. It is exploring how it can adjust enrollment and virtual classroom policies and procedures to maintain communication, collaboration, and transparency with our local school partners. We also want to ensure adequate instructional staffing to support enrollment growth under this law.

We are using one survey instrument to collect data on both pieces of legislation. Use the QR code to participate or visit https://forms.office.com/r/LPXEwFY6Wh. The deadline for completing the survey is noon on 07/17/23. We are very grateful for your participation!

NDCDE Announces New Cybersecurity Courses for the 23-24 School Year

In response to HB 1398, CDE has a new menu of cybersecurity courses ready to launch this fall. We have placed all the course descriptions in a flyer (click on the image to view it). We're especially excited to partner with **Edutech** on the high school cybersecurity course. The Edutech staff who spearheaded the development of state standards on cybersecurity education has now designed the curriculum for the NDCDE course! Classes will be available to purchase in our store beginning **August 15, 2023**.

NDCDE Hires Four New Administration & Curricular Support Staff

To support CDE's long-term strategic goals and continue our commitment to delivering high-quality virtual education, we recently hired four new staff to fill new and newly revised positions that align with our aim to engage in continuous improvement in instruction, student support, and curricula. We welcome the following members to our team:

- **Kirstin Girau**d has accepted the position as NDCDE's **online instructional coach** as part of the LMS-Curriculum team. Kirstin has worked in public education for 16 years, with nearly ten years of administrative experience in K-12 instructional coaching, professional learning, and as an elementary principal.
- **Jessica Irey** has accepted the position of **assistant elementary principal**. She has nearly 20 years of experience teaching in school districts throughout North Dakota.
- **Kaitlyn Allen** has accepted the position of the NDCDE **online curriculum designe**r. She has eight years of teaching experience in Denver, Germany, and, most recently, Grand Forks.
- **Aubrey Day** has accepted the **Learning Management System (LMS) Technical Support Specialist** position. She recently served as an instructional systems designer and was previously a middle school teacher.

To read more about each staff member, visit our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/ndcde/.

Follow Us!

NDCDE Announces a New Adjunct Pool

NDCDE plans to hire several part-time teachers this fall in response to new K-12 cybersecurity and computer science curricular requirements and legislation on virtual school choice. To help expedite the hiring process, teachers interested in working part-time for NDCDE can complete a portion of the application process now! NDCDE administrators score the applications and add those meeting the eligibility criteria to our adjunct pool email list.

Those on this list receive notice of all NDCDE vacancies as soon as we post them, complete a shorter application when applying for openings, and receive other important updates, including news of professional development opportunities. NDCDE adjuncts work part-time, remotely on flexible schedules and receive TFFR benefits. Scan the QR code or visit https://forms.office.com/r/bnFyMdYx3d to begin the process. Click on the image to download a printable flyer.

Apply for the CDE Adjunct Pool

Wishing John Struchynski a Happy Retirement!

CDE's IT director, John Struchynski, retired on June 30 after 33+ years of service. We featured John's contributions to CDE in our October newsletter. We wish John a very happy and relaxing retirement and thank him for all the ways he innovated to elevate the quality of virtual education statewide over the years.