



# NORTH DAKOTA

## State Profile

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<b>Advanced Placement (AP)</b>	Yes	No details known or available	No		Yes	Funding through general appropriations of State Board of Higher Education
<b>Bridge Programs</b>	Yes	Upward Bound, TRIO, and Talent Search programs have curriculum components associated with universities	No		No	
<b>College Level Exam Program (CLEP)</b>	Yes	No detail know or available	No		Yes	Funding through general appropriations of State Board of Higher Education
<b><u>Distance Learning/ Virtual School</u></b>	Yes	Distance learning is offered in many forms: video, online, and home schooling. A virtual school delivers online services and courses. Many correspondence high schools become available online replacing traditional high schools.	Yes	North Dakota reaches out to students equally, but special efforts are made to reach out to students in remote areas of the state.	Yes	State policy, guidelines and funding through the Division of Independent Study. The state appropriates a significant amount of state and federal funding for equipment.
<b><u>Dual Credit / Dual Enrollment</u></b>	Yes	In 1999, over 650 students from 57 high schools participated and took courses from 10 colleges, including one private college and one tribal college.	No		Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding through general appropriations, but tuition costs are paid by students.</li> <li>Senate Bill 2033 signed into law in 1997</li> <li>Policy from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction and Board of Higher Education</li> </ul>
<b>Early or Middle College High Schools</b>	No		No		No	
<b><u>GED in College Settings</u></b>	Yes	Preparatory classes are offered through North Dakota Adult Learning Centers across the state.	No		Yes	State policy, guidelines, and funding through general appropriations
<b>International Baccalaureate (IB)</b>	No		No		No	

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<u>Tech Prep</u>	Yes	Provides links between secondary and postsecondary education that include articulation and/or dual credit opportunities for courses that are rigorous, sequential, and non-duplicative to ensure a skilled and educated workforce	No		No	

**Summary of academic pathways:**

North Dakota places high priority on competency-based admissions and dual credit. North Dakota has a competency-based admission initiative. While not yet a mandate, the Board of Higher Education will decide whether or not to recommend competency-based admission as a requirement for state colleges and universities. Established in 1935 and overseen by the Division of Independent Study, the K-12 distance education program is the fifth largest in the United States. Students can enroll in distance learning to receive a high school diploma, make up missed courses, take classes not offered by the local school, or simply earn a high school diploma in a non-traditional setting. Students also can earn college credit by enrolling in classes offered by the state’s virtual school. Additionally, North Dakota offers opportunities for students to earn AP credit. However, the state has the lowest AP participation in the country. North Dakota considers tribal colleges a form of academic pathway, and many students who attend tribal colleges would not have access to college without them. Tribal colleges serve students who are Native Americans, low-income, or first-generation college students.

**State’s effort to encourage college prep curriculum:**

Admission to baccalaureate and graduate North Dakota University System institutions requires completion of a high school core curriculum. The core curriculum includes 4 units of English; 3 units of mathematics, algebra 1 and above; 3 units of laboratory science, including 1 unit each in 2 or more of the following: biology, chemistry, physics or physical science; and 3 units of social studies. It is strongly recommended that students take a mathematics course in each year of high school and take 2 units of a single classical or modern language, including Sign Language and Native American languages.

**Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:**

Distance Learning/Virtual Schools

### Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:

Of the existing pathways in the state, distance learning/virtual schools make special efforts to reach traditionally underserved students. All other pathways reach out to students equally. State leaders contend that underserved students would be reached without any special efforts because North Dakota has a small state population. By contrast, distance learning is important to reach students who are either displaced geographically or are place-bound. Distance learning technology reaches rural students throughout the state, particularly students who reside to the west because most state universities are located on the eastern border.

### Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

North Dakota has state legislation for dual credit and distance learning/virtual schools. There is some funding for the pathways, but they are largely funded through regular appropriations rather than categorical funding. By contrast, bridge programs and Tech Prep are federally funded with no state dollars. North Dakota used to have a federal grant to subsidize low-income students' AP exam fees, but the grant expired. The state has extensive policies and guidelines for pathways such as dual credit, AP, CLEP, distance learning/virtual schools, and the GED in college settings.

### Lessons learned by state officials:

- If students were better prepared, the cost of attrition would decline for the universities and colleges.
- State leaders and educators must work together for the common goal of improving student learning. With the buy-in from different stakeholders, progress can be accomplished in a timely manner. Everyone benefits from sharing this goal.

### Programs recommended by state officials:

<u>Pathways</u>	<u>Educational Institution</u>	<u>Contact person</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Dual Credit	Lake Regent State College	Doug Darling	--	(701) 662-1506
Dual Credit	Dickenson State University	Rich Braun	--	(701) 483-2507

### State official's contact information:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
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(Prepared by Melanie B. Rubin and Eunyoung Kim/ Updated December, 2004/ \*State official reviewed this state profile.)