

Going the Distance:

Monthly News & Updates

October 2022

News Briefs

NDCDE Requests Feedback from Superintendents

NDCDE is currently reviewing all of its services to ensure they are meeting the needs of North Dakota schools and to determine if we can reallocate resources to offer new courses and services aligned with student needs. To help with this review, we are asking for feedback from superintendents on NDCDE's services. We have developed a survey, which will take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete, and the results are anonymous. The survey is linked below, and the deadline for completing it is 11/09/22. Thank you in advance for helping shape the future of NDCDE!

[Needs Assessment Survey](#)

EmpowerU Webinar

With the start of the school year behind us, and students back into a routine, you have likely begun to spot students exhibiting at-risk behaviors. EmpowerU offers solutions to combat school avoidance behaviors. Through a partnership with NDCDE and DPI, your students have access to EmpowerU for half the cost. We invite you and your counselors to attend an upcoming webinar on October 26 at 9:00 am CST to learn more. Please register below.

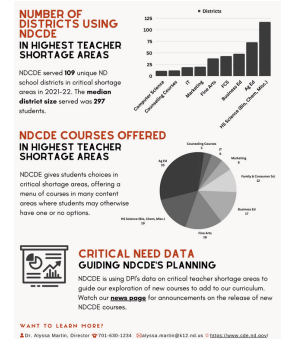
[Register Here](#)

NDCDE Helps Fill Teacher Shortage Gaps

NDCDE has always played a key role in supporting North Dakota schools, especially during the pandemic. From 2020 through 2021, NDCDE enrollment grew by an average of 79% at the peak of the fall semester. Today, NDCDE continues to fill critical needs in North Dakota. More specifically, NDCDE is helping North Dakota school districts address teacher shortages by delivering courses in 11 of the 16 highest-need areas identified by DPI as part of the 21-22 Teacher Shortage Study.

To help schools and the public understand the scope of services that NDCDE provides to "fill the gap" and the number of students and districts that have relied on us as a solution to teacher vacancies, we have prepared a short whitepaper. We encourage districts with current teacher vacancies to review the whitepaper and our [online store](#) to determine if NDCDE can offer a solution to your students' needs caused by a teacher shortage. Remember that NDCDE courses run in an open-enrollment, asynchronous format, so it's never too late for your students to pick up a course through NDCDE that is not, and perhaps cannot be, offered locally.

[Click Here to Access the Whitepaper](#)



In the Spotlight: Educators, Students, & CDE Staff



Emily Schaefer
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NDCDE Using Best Practices in Virtual Elementary Delivery

NDCDE's K-5 program got off the ground in 2020 when NDCDE launched 83 new courses in areas such as language arts, math, science, and social studies. We currently have ten adjuncts and one full-time lead teacher, Emily Schaefer. The program is spearheaded by Dr. Tonya Greywind.

Dr. Greywind and Ms. Schaefer have collaborated extensively on how to create an online experience that is engaging for young learners.

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Sargent Central Opens a SmartLab

Sargent Central School in Forman, ND, recently installed a SmartLab. The lab serves students in grades K-12. This 18-learner lab boasts a new laser engraver, 3D printer, and Nomad--the first lab in North Dakota to have all three technologies! NDCDE is excited to share the many positive student outcomes likely to stem from this new space. Congrats to Sargent Central School District on this addition!

To learn more the NDCDE SmartLab program, visit our [SmartLabs](#) webpage or contact Dr. Tonya Greywind at 701-561-8936, or tonya.greywind@k12.nd.us.

Call for Student Stories

Are you an NDCDE student or a parent of one of our students who has significantly benefitted from our courses? We'd like to hear your story. Please complete our online form to tell us more. You/your child may be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

[Online Form](#)

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Virtual Elementary Delivery, cont.

Gleaning from best practices on delivering virtual education to elementary students, the pair has identified ways to incorporate the following into the NDCDE elementary experience:

- One-to-one weekly meetings with the teacher, student, and learning coach (typically a parent) to focus on individualized instruction, reteaching, and overall guidance throughout the course
- Learning coach training, participation, and engagement; coaches receive weekly progress reports
- Monthly group student meetings to provide students with a social component alongside their peers
- Asynchronous learning, which allows students to dedicate attention to areas in which they need more focus and support
- Access to a highly-qualified teacher for questions and support through multiple modes including email, texting, phone calls, and virtual meetings
- Hands-on projects to assure our virtual learners are exposed to many different styles of learning
- Core course workbooks to have tangible hands-on practice with writing and problem-solving

Greywind and Schaefer continue to evaluate our K-5 programming to refine its delivery and increase student engagement. Part of this desire to innovate stems from Schaefer's background. Being born and raised in rural North Dakota and Northern Minnesota, she aims to provide the best educational experience to all North Dakota kids. She attended the College of St. Benedict and graduated with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. Prior to her time at NDCDE, she taught fifth grade in rural northeast North Dakota, helping her understand the specific needs of rural elementary students.

To learn more about the NDCDE elementary program, visit our [website](#) or contact [Dr. Greywind](#) directly.

Innovators in Action: John Struchynski



John Struchynski
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Perhaps one of NDCDE's most hidden figures is Technology Director John Struchynski. Under his leadership, NDCDE has evolved from a paper-based correspondence school to a true online education provider. John and his team's latest innovation is the business system running behind our online store, enrollment process, and billing system.

Struchynski's goal has been for school districts to have a smooth experience when purchasing an NDCDE course. To orchestrate this, the NDCDE technology team replaced a nine-year-old system and then thought through every possible scenario associated with course enrollment, purchasing and billing, and the complexity of transferring data from a business system to a student information system and learning management system. The end result is a nearly seamless registration experience and accurate enrollment process, which NDCDE continues to refine. NDCDE is proud to have pioneers like John on its technology team. If you have any questions or feedback on the NDCDE store, please [contact us using the online form](#) on our website.