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**NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

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To: Dayna Bartlette, Principal, Strasburg High School
Gloria Odden, Superintendent
Robert Heidrich, School Board President

From: ND State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler

Date: September 28, 2021

RE: Congratulations on Your High Performance!

The purpose of this memo is to congratulate you on ranking in the top 15% of all North Dakota public schools. The NDDPI urges you to seek opportunities to share best practices amongst your colleagues to spread awareness about improving graduation rates and addressing equity gaps for at-risk student populations.

Under ESSA, the US Education Department requires NDDPI to create a [School Accountability Report annually](#) for every public school in the state. In 2020-2021, NDDPI calculated accountability to be used **only** as a tool for school districts to identify areas of underperformance and proactively implement school improvement strategies. To access public accountability reports on the Insights dashboard, please see the [NDDPI homepage](#) or <https://insights.nd.gov/>.

Again, congratulations! School leaders receiving this memo have ranked **in the top 15%** of public schools based on the North Dakota Accountability Index (NDAI). The NDAI is essentially a public school's score (points a school earns based on points possible) and placed in ranking order. For more information regarding technical aspects of the School Accountability Report and how points are calculated, please review the [School Accountability Index Guide](#).

The NDDPI is committed to supporting schools and districts in gaining a deeper understanding of data, providing resources for high-impact use of funds, and ensuring students are on the right path towards graduating [Choice Ready](#). In addition, increased funding opportunities provide an opportunity for educational leaders to maximize the impact of emergency dollars by flowing funds directly to students through accelerating services and advancing educational experiences. The focus should always be on providing direct services for students and expanding classroom resources to address subgroup gaps in special populations. The NDDPI commends you for your commitment to all children and the positive impact your hard work and dedication have on the students you serve. Please continue to evaluate your data regularly to identify areas of strength and areas of need.