
Introduction to School Finance

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Class meeting date and time: July 7, 2016 (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon)

Class meeting location: Lecture Room B, North Dakota Heritage Center

TEXTS AND SUPPLIES

Required

- NDCC Ch. 57-15 and 15.1-27, School Finance Facts website:
<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/uploads/1209/FinanceFacts2016revised41.pdf>
- Chapter 1 and 2 of Understanding School Finance:
http://education.und.edu/educational-leadership/_files/docs/schoolfinance.pdf
- State Aid Projections
<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/uploads/146/EquityReport201608Projected.pdf>
- Funding Schools Adequately in North Dakota: Resources to Double Student Performance <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/uploads/1214/Picus.pdf>
- Title I Fast Facts: General: Supplement, not Supplant – A Fiscal Analysis and Title I Buildings Must Provide Services. Targeted: Aides/Paraprofessionals, Parent Involvement and Title I Student Selection
<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/Resources/fastfacts/>
- Guidance Pertaining to Title II, Part A
<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/uploads/1226/ClarificationonAllowableExpenditures.pdf>
- **Laptop with wireless access**

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

Overview of revenue sources for schools: federal, state, and local funding. This course will cover basic terms, factors that determine each district's funding, reporting and distribution deadlines, and common missteps and errors that jeopardize funding.

Course Goals:

1. Students should understand the three major sources of funding:
 - a. Federal: Common federal funding sources (e.g., Title I) and limits on how these funds are spent.
 - b. State: How is state aid determined under the new funding formula?
 - c. Local: What is a mill? How does a district determine number of mills to levy? What are the different types of levies (general fund, building, miscellaneous mills).
2. Students should know state and federal funding reporting deadlines and when funds are dispersed to schools by DPI.
3. Students should be able to read and understand a DPI state aid projection sheet.
4. Students should understand budget hearing requirements under NDCC 57-15-02.1.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS, FINAL ASSESSMENT, AND GRADING

- Reading assignments for this course are as follows. Please read Chapters 1 and 2 of Understanding School Finance. Please review the Title I Fast Facts and Guidance Pertaining to Title II, Part A. Please printout out and review Finance Facts and the State Aid Projections. All documents are listed above.
- Final assessment: The final assessment for this class will be worth 80 points. The instructor will provide you with guidance on this final assessment during class. The final assessment for this class will consist of a budgeting exercise. It will take place during July 31, 2016. A completed proctor verification form must be attached to the test, and the proctor's signature must be across the seal of the test envelope.

Grades will be calculated on a 100 point scale and based on attendance 10 points, class participation 10 points, and the final exam 80 points. The grading scale is as follows:

85 – 100 = Mastery (M): Student has completed proficient work on all course objectives and advanced work on some objectives.

70 – 84 = Proficient (P): Student has completed proficient work on the majority of and/or most important objectives, although not on all objectives. Students must receive at least a proficient to pass a course.

00 – 69 = Developing (D): Student is missing a majority of and/or important objectives and is consequently at significant risk of failing the next related course or being unable to perform the skills covered in the course. Students who receive this designation will be required to retake the course.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will only be accepted under to extreme circumstances as determined by the instructor on a case-by-case basis. All assignments must be completed and graded by the grade reporting deadline.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion (as defined in the NDSBMCP Student Handbook) and is prohibited. Academic dishonesty may be treated as an academic matter or as a disciplinary matter at the discretion of the instructor. The instructor may reflect the incident of dishonesty in the student's grade. If the student has a grievance related to this action, that grievance may be filed in accordance with the NDSBMCP grading grievance procedure. Alternatively, the instructor may refer the case as a disciplinary matter to the NDSBA Executive Director, who is authorized to take disciplinary action, which may include, but not be limited to, withholding course credit, suspending participation in the program, or permanently removing the individual from the program. Prior to making a disciplinary decision, the NDSBA Executive Director will meet with the student, provide a detailed list of charges against him/her, the corroborating evidence, and offer him/her an opportunity to respond.

The final test for this course must be proctored by your superintendent or board president. S/he must attach a signed statement to your exam attesting that it was taken in compliance with the NDSBMCP's academic integrity policy. A superintendent's or board president's facsimile signature on the proctor form will not be accepted.

DISABILITY SERVICES

Services will, to the extent feasible, be provided for students with temporary or permanent disabilities. Accommodations and services will be based on the individual student's disability-based need. Students with a disability need should contact alyssa.martin@ndsba.org one week prior to the class meeting date to request accommodations.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance and participation in class activities are considered integral parts of certification. Since this course meets for only a few hours, attendance in classes is expected of all students. Attendance and, if applicable, participation will significantly impact grading.

CLASS CANCELLATION

If a course is cancelled, NDSBA will attempt to notify students via email three days prior to the scheduled class date. In the event of a cancellation, instructors may post video lectures online for students to access or may reschedule the class meeting date. NDSBA will inform students of the make-up arrangements for a cancelled class.