



New ND Charter School Rules Taking Effect April 1

BISMARCK, N.D., March 20, 2026 – State School Superintendent Levi Bachmeier said North Dakota's new rules governing public, tax-supported charter schools will take effect April 1, opening the way for supporters to offer their ideas for charter schools.

The regulations, which were adopted after the North Dakota Legislature authorized public charter schools in April 2025, ensure academic and budget accountability for charters and specify that any special education students in charter schools must be provided services.

The new state law, SB2241, says charter school developers must negotiate "performance agreements" with the state superintendent of public instruction, which will set out academic performance expectations and regulate how schools are operated and governed.

The charter school application process must include a public meeting with any charter school applicant to allow state officials and the public to ask questions about it. Given the logistical demands for starting a charter school, North Dakota's first charters are not expected to open until the fall of 2027.

"North Dakota families are asking for more choices in the education of their children," Bachmeier said. "This new law and rules offer the opportunity for more choices, while ensuring that the foundational rules that govern our public schools, from financial transparency to instructional access for students with disabilities, are fairly

and equally applied to public charters."

The charter school model offers flexibility in classroom instruction and school governance, as long as performance agreement requirements are met. Charters must employ licensed teachers and can receive state education aid, which is linked to student enrollment. They are not eligible for local property tax support.

Approval of the regulations followed a drafting process that included a December 2025 public hearing, opportunities for public comment, and scrutiny by the attorney general and the Legislature's Administrative Rules Committee, which reviewed them earlier this month.

North Dakota is the 47th state to authorize charter schools, according to the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.

Arlene Wolf, director of school approval and opportunity for the Department of Public Instruction, said the rules focus on areas where the law was less precise, and where additional emphasis on requirements would be beneficial.

"We wanted to ensure transparency in the application and review process, set clear expectations for monitoring, reporting, and corrective action, and make sure enrollment practices were fair," she said. "And we really wanted it to be crystal clear that charter schools are not exempt from any state or federal special education requirements."

The charter school regulations were part of a package of NDDPI administrative rules that also affect school bus standards, special education, school construction loans, school district cooperative agreements, professional development for math teachers in grades kindergarten through eight, and school building assessments.



1883 Stutsman County Courthouse begins guided tour program April 1

JAMESTOWN, N.D. — The 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse State Historic Site will begin offering scheduled 45-minute guided tours starting April 1. Guided tours will be offered daily at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4 p.m.

Led by trained staff and volunteers, the tours use thematic interpretation to encourage conversation, reflection, and a deeper understanding of the courthouse's role in American civics. The new tours complement the existing self-guided experience.

"We are creating opportunities that bring dialogue, debate, and discussion back into the corridors and offices of the courthouse," said Outreach Coordinator Stephan Zacharias. "With the diversity of our guests and guides, each visit offers a unique learning

experience."

Tours are free and limited to 15 participants per session. Reservations are not required but are recommended. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Larger groups can be accommodated with advance arrangements.

The 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse State Historic Site is home to a unique hands-on exhibit about civics and local government. It is North Dakota's oldest surviving courthouse and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information, contact Outreach Coordinator Stephan Zacharias, shs1883courthouse@nd.gov or 701.328.1883. Located at 504 Third Ave. SE, Jamestown, the 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse State Historic Site is managed by the State Historical Society of North Dakota. The site is open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and closed Sunday-Monday. Find more programs sponsored by the State Historical Society at history.nd.gov/events.



Megans Minutes

By Megan Mout

◆ MENU ◆

Wednesday 25th: Sloppy Joes with Potato Wedges & Salad Bar
Thursday 26th: Tator-Tot Hotdish, Dinner Roll & Salad Bar
Friday 27th: Grilled cheese with tomato or chicken noodle soup
Monday 30th: Chicken Wings, French Fries, Bread Sticks & Salad
Tuesday 31st: Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Corn, Dinner Roll & Salad Bar
Wednesday 1st: Pizza & Salad

◆ SPORTS ◆

03/26
Basketball: Girls 5th Game
Vs. Bishop Ryan @ Bishop Ryan High School
4:00 PM

Basketball: Girls 6th Game
Vs. Bishop Ryan @ Bishop Ryan High School
5:00 PM

Basketball: Boys 5th Game
Vs. Drake Anamoose @ Newburg High School
5:00 PM

Basketball: Boys 6th Game
Vs. Drake Anamoose @ Newburg High School
6:00 PM

03/27
Basketball: Boys 5th Game

Vs. Bottineau Public School @ Bottineau High School
4:15 PM

Basketball: Boys 6th Game
Vs. Bottineau Public School @ Bottineau High School
5:15 PM

03/31
Basketball: Boys 5th Game
Vs. TGU Towner @ Newburg High School
4:00 PM

Basketball: Girls 5th Game
Vs. Kenmare @ Kenmare High School
4:30 PM

Basketball: Boys 6th Game
Vs. TGU Towner @ Newburg High School
5:00 PM

Basketball: Girls 6th Game
Vs. Kenmare @ Kenmare High School
5:30 PM

◆ IMPORTANT DATES ◆

March 25th Early Out 1PM
Release/Staff Dev

March 28th Prom

April 3rd No School / Good Friday

April 6th No School / Early Monday (possible storm Day)

April 22nd Early Out 1PM
Release/Staff Dev.

April 30th Last Day of Afterschool Program

Sometimes all it takes is a simple smile to make everything feel a little better.

Dean Gorder Assists with US Sled Hockey Team Gold



USA9 taken October 2018 courtesy of DCB Photography

March 16, 2026 – Bottineau, ND – Dakota College at Bottineau's Campus Dean Corey Gorder recently celebrated with the U.S. National Sled Hockey Team as they took the Gold on Sunday at the 2026 Paralympic Games held in Milano-Cortina, Italy.

Gorder recently accepted the Dakota College at Bottineau (DCB) Campus Dean position just days before traveling to Italy for the 2026 Paralympic Games. He holds a Master of Science in clinical psychology from Capella University, a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice and sociology

from Minot State University, and is a licensed professional clinical counselor in North Dakota. He joined DCB in 2013 as a Mental Health Counselor, became Athletic Director in 2020, and for the past two years has served as DCB's Associate Dean of Student Services. He has also contributed to the college's athletics program as an assistant men's hockey coach. Before accepting the position, he had been serving as interim Campus Dean.

A Bottineau native, he coached alongside head US Sled Hockey Coach David Hoff since 2018 and

has also served as an associate coach-in-chief and a coach for the USA Hockey Sled Development Camps. He helped the US capture gold in his first-ever Paralympics at Beijing in 2022, where Team USA finished with an unbeaten record. Team USA secured its fifth consecutive Paralympic title with a 6-2 victory over Canada on Sunday, March 15. Gorder has introduced the US Sled Hockey team to the DCB students over the years. The DCB students are pictured with members from the 2018-19 USA Sled team.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is hereby given that township and city equalization meetings in Bottineau County will be held at the following locations and times:

2026 Equalization Schedule

April 7, 2026	Kane Township	Newburg Community Center	4:30 p.m.
	Tacoma Township	Newburg Community Center	5:00 p.m.
	Newborg Township	Newburg Community Center	5:30 p.m.
	City of Newburg	Newburg Community Center	6:00 p.m.
	City of Bottineau	City Armory	7:15 p.m.
April 8, 2026	Amity Township	Courthouse Commissioner's Room	9:00 a.m.
	Pickering Township	Courthouse Commissioner's Room	9:30 a.m.
	Oak Valley Township	Courthouse Commissioner's Room	10:00 a.m.
	Lordsburg Township	Courthouse Commissioner's Room	11:00 a.m.
	Whitteron Township	Courthouse Commissioner's Room	11:30 a.m.
April 9, 2026	Cordelia Township	Courthouse Commissioner's Room	12:00 p.m.
	Bentinck Township	Kent Huber Residence	12:30 p.m.
	Richburg Township	Gateway Community Room-Westhope	1:30 p.m.
	Scotia Township	Gateway Community Room-Westhope	3:00 p.m.
	City of Landa	Gateway Community Room-Westhope	3:30 p.m.
April 10, 2026	Sergius Township	Gateway Community Room-Westhope	4:00 p.m.
	Wayne Township	Gateway Community Room-Westhope	5:00 p.m.
	City of Westhope	Gateway Community Room-Westhope	7:00 p.m.
	Wheaton Township	Antler Community Hall	2:00 p.m.
	Hoffman Township	Antler Community Hall	2:30 p.m.
April 13, 2026	Renville Township	Antler Community Hall	3:00 p.m.
	Antler township	Antler Community Hall	3:30 p.m.
	Sherman Township	Antler Community Hall	4:00 p.m.
	Cut Bank Township	Antler Community Hall	4:30 p.m.
	City of Antler	Antler Community Hall	5:00 p.m.
April 14, 2026	Lansford Township	Lansford Community Center	1:00 p.m.
	Chatfield Township	Lansford Community Center	1:30 p.m.
	Blaine Township	Lansford Community Center	3:00 p.m.
	Elms Township	Lansford Community Center	4:00 p.m.
	Mount Rose Township	Lansford Community Center	4:30 p.m.
April 15, 2026	City of Lansford	Lansford Community Center	6:00 p.m.
	Oak Creek Township	Kramer Senior Center	1:00 p.m.
	Elysian Township	Kramer Senior Center	1:30 p.m.
	Stone Creek Township	Kramer Senior Center	2:00 p.m.
	Starbuck Township	Kramer Senior Center	2:30 p.m.
April 16, 2026	City of Gardena	Kramer Senior Center	3:00 p.m.
	City of Kramer	Kramer Senior Center	3:30 p.m.
	Scandia Township	Souris Fire Hall	3:00 p.m.
	Dalen Township	Souris Fire Hall	3:30 p.m.
	Haram Township	Souris Fire Hall	4:00 p.m.
April 21, 2026	Peabody Township	Souris Fire Hall	4:30 p.m.
	Eidsvold Township	Souris Fire Hall	5:00 p.m.
	City of Souris	Souris Fire Hall	6:30 p.m.
	Hastings Township	Maxbass Fire Hall	11:00 a.m.
	Lewis Township	Maxbass Fire Hall	11:30 a.m.
June 2, 2026	Brander Township	Maxbass Fire Hall	12:00 p.m.
	City of Maxbass	Maxbass Fire Hall	12:30 p.m.
	City of Overly	Willow City Community Hall	5:00 p.m.
	Wellington Township	Willow City Community Hall	5:30 p.m.
	Ostby Township	Willow City Community Hall	6:00 p.m.
April 21, 2026	Willow Vale Township	Willow City Community Hall	6:30 p.m.
	City of Willow City	Willow City Community Hall	7:00 p.m.
	Homen Township	Quilt Inn Conference Room	6:30 p.m.
	Roland Township	Quilt Inn Conference Room	7:00 p.m.
	Unorganized Townships (Cecil, Whitby)	Courthouse Commissioner's Room	10:00 a.m.

Ashley Pedie, Director of Tax Equalization

For cancellations or rescheduling due to inclement weather, please check Bottineau County's Facebook page. Jurisdictions will be notified by the Tax Director.

HOEVEN: NSF AWARDS \$45 MILLION TO NORTH DAKOTA AGTECH ENGINE AT NDSU

Senator Worked to Advance Latest Round of Federal Funding, Supporting Ag Technology and Workforce Development

FARGO, N.D. – Senator John Hoeven today announced the National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded \$45 million over three years to the North Dakota AgTech Engine housed at North Dakota State University (NDSU).

The engine is a partnership of NDSU, the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo (FMWF) Chamber of Commerce, the Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation and the North Dakota Tribal College System focused on advancing:

- Agricultural technology innovation.
- Agricultural workforce development.

The initiative has now received a total of \$60 million for its first five years of operations, with the potential to receive up to \$160 million over ten years from the NSF.

Hoeven worked to secure the initial \$15 million to establish the AgTech Engine and has continued working to support the initiative to ensure future funding.

The first two years of operations focused on building a network of investors, farmers, industry partners and entrepreneurs.

The latest round of funding will be used to expand startup growth and technology commer-

cialization, as well as expand education opportunities to train the next generation of agriculture and engineering professionals.

The engine assists partnered companies with technology research and validation to bring new products to market that help meet farmer and rancher needs.

To date, the engine has leveraged more than \$73 million in investment and research and development from private sector partners.

"The North Dakota Agtech Engine has proven its potential in the first two years of its operations, leveraging more than \$73 million from private sector partners using \$15 million in initial federal support. That's why we were able to secure this \$45 million award, which will support three more years of technology and workforce development," said Senator Hoeven. "Our farmers and ranchers provide the highest-quality, lowest-cost food supply in the world. By bringing new innovations to market, we can help them reduce their input costs, increase their yields and retain their competitive edge in the global economy. That's what the AgTech Engine is all about."

Today's announcement comes as part of Hoeven's work to bolster

agriculture research at NDSU and in North Dakota. As Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee, Hoeven secured more than \$50 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 funding legislation to strengthen North Dakota's role as a driving force in the development of future agriculture technology and policy. Among other priorities, this funding includes:

- Approximately \$25 million for ag research in North Dakota with NDSU and its partners, funded through the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).
- \$18.5 million for NDSU-led research initiatives, ranging from autonomous technologies to machine learning and data security in agriculture.
- Nearly \$2.5 million for the NDSU Agricultural Risk Policy Center, which provides timely economic analysis on high-impact issues in farm country.
- \$5 million for the AgTech Cooperative Agreement between Grand Farm, NDSU and ARS.
- \$3 million for continued renovations at the Edward T. Schaffer Agricultural Research Center in Fargo, bringing total funding for the project to \$18 million since FY2022.