NORTH DAKOTA MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ALLIANCE

Strategic Plan

Approved Sept. 17, 2001

PURPOSE OF THE ALLIANCE

1. To promote the understanding and implementation of National and State Standards for excellence in teaching and learning.

2. To support dissemination of information and to link and coordinate mathematics and science education activities and resources in North Dakota.

3. To support community-school-business cooperative ventures within North Dakota.

4. To identify the professional development needs of North Dakota K-12 mathematics and science teachers.

5. To coordinate the professional development needs using the human and financial resources available to the organization

VISION

As an advisory body, the North Dakota Mathematics and Science Alliance will be the premier advocate for a quality mathematics and science education system in North Dakota.

OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE ONE: Promote and support policies and funding programs that support the goals of standards-based systemic reform for K-12 mathematics and science education in North Dakota.

Strategy 1: Provide periodic community-based information workshops on the purpose, the detailed standards, and the implementation schedule of the National and ND Mathematics and Science Standards in North Dakota.

Action 1: Report on the state of mathematics and science education in North Dakota to interested parties with a stake in these disciplines.

Action 2: Seek comment from interested parties on their needs for mathematics and science education in the state.
Strategy 2: Support the implementation of the National and ND Mathematics and Science Standards as early as possible in North Dakota.

Action 1: Regularly provide information to all North Dakota Mathematics and Science educators on the National and ND Mathematics and Science Standards.

Action 2: Regularly provide information to leaders of partner organizations and government on the purpose, desired outcomes and implementation schedule of the National and ND Mathematics and Science Standards.

OBJECTIVE TWO: Lead and coordinate collaborative policy and funding initiatives that will enhance and sustain quality mathematics and science education in North Dakota.

Strategy 1: Develop a database of organizations and leaders who have a vested interest in mathematics and science education and the contributions they can make to the Alliance in terms of policymaking and resource allocation decisions.

Action 1: Identify current Alliance members, the organizations they represent, and the contribution they or their organizations can make in achieving and sustaining a quality mathematics and science education system.

Action 2: Identify potential Alliance partners who can help the Alliance in developing and implementing quality mathematics and science education policy and resource allocation recommendations and/or policy and resource support of the Alliance.

Strategy 2: Annually report on and publicize statewide activities that are supporting high quality mathematics and science education in North Dakota.

OBJECTIVE THREE: Achieve and maintain self-sufficiency and sustainability of the Alliance.

Strategy One: Develop a recruitment plan that targets specific individuals and organizations that can assist the North Dakota Mathematics and Science Alliance in achieving and sustaining a quality mathematics and science education system.
CORE VALUES

1. Quality mathematics and science education is the result of a collaborative approach to policy and resource allocation decisions.

2. Alliance credibility is based on the integrity of our personal and professional relationships with our members, partners, state and community leaders and the general public, and the policy and resource allocation recommendations made by the Alliance.

3. Continuous and open communication within and outside the Alliance are critical to our success and a quality mathematics and science education system.

4. Quality mathematics and science education is obtained through a continuous and systemic review and improvement process.

5. Community driven outcomes at the Grade 12 level are the basis for a standards-based mathematics and science education system.

6. Educator professional standards will reflect the shared outcomes developed with the community but are the responsibility of the profession to establish, enforce, monitor, review, and revise in a timely manner in response to economic, political, demographic, professional and technological changes.

7. Quality mathematics and science education will benefit the students, educators, parents, community and employers.

DEFINITIONS

Core Values: Those criteria, concepts or principles that will not be compromised in acting to achieve the purpose and vision of the organization.

Mathematics and Science Education System: a relationship of functions, entities, and influences that facilitates the preparation of competent and capable graduates with the essential mathematics and science knowledge, skills, and aptitudes to succeed in an ever changing world environment.

Partnership: A voluntary agreement of two or more individuals or groups who have something to gain in the partnership, who have something to lose if the partnership fails, and who can add value to those served through a partnership that could not been obtained by working separately.

Vision Statement: A guide to specific future action that will allow the organization to attain its purpose in serving its members. The statement is clear and specific as to what is to be accomplished, the outcome is achievable (it may require 3-5 years to complete), and the outcome or results (or lack thereof) are measurable. The vision statement is a means of interpreting and sustaining the organization.
Purpose: The reason for organizing and forming the entity. This is usually found in the Preamble or a specific section of the organization’s constitution.

Objectives: Those specific results that must be achieved in order to accomplish the vision of the organization.

Strategy: A comprehensive grouping or categorization of related individual actions that, when completed, will assist in achieving the objective and, ultimately, the vision statement results.

Actions: Specific tasks that need to be completed and may be expressed in terms of who is to do what, when, how, and where. This allows timelines or milestones to be established, resources identified or needed to carry out the action (time, money, people, policy, and technology), and primary and secondary individuals or organizations responsible for seeing that the action is accomplished. Accountability can be established through a structured display of this information as well as performance, or the lack thereof.

Strategic planning is a continuous process and requires periodic and systematic review and revision. A strategic plan is a living document and is one the chief tools used by the organization’s leadership, management team, and the individual members in sustaining and improving the organization. When appropriately designed, reviewed, and updated, it is a valuable communicative vehicle for internal and external audiences and purposes.