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January 17, 2014

The Honorable Deb Peters  
The Honorable Fred Romkema  
Joint Committee on Appropriations  
500 East Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Senator Peters and Representative Romkema:

As requested in your memo dated Dec. 11, 2013, please find a written response to the supplemental questions of the committee.

1. **What activities will your agency eliminate, initiate, or significantly change?**

The DOE does not presently have plans to stop any current programs. However, as our work with the Education Delivery Institute continues, we expect our activities to continue to become more focused on our ultimate aspiration that all students graduate high school college, career and life ready. If we find that a program, initiative or activity does not align with the identified aspiration and associated student outcomes, or is not successful in moving the metric on these outcomes, we will re-evaluate and search for a program or activity that has been proven to have an impact on the specific student outcome.

DOE is requesting funding in the FY15 budget to expand the number of dual credit courses offered at all Board of Regents Institutes and Technical Institutes. Courses would be offered to students at a negotiated rate of \$40 per credit hour. General funds in the amount of \$300,000 is being requested and would pay for \$105 of the per credit rate that the state would cover. Students would be responsible for \$40 per credit hour plus book, course materials, and fees.

One major activity that will be changing is the movement of the state assessment to the new assessment (Smarter Balanced). All public school districts will be participating in the field test in spring 2014 to gain exposure to the new format for testing and for teachers and schools to focus on the new standards and quality

teaching. The results for SY2013-14 will not be tied to accountability.

In addition, the following initiatives are planned:

- Teacher and Principal Effectiveness trainings to build capacity
- Targeted professional development at the individual district level
- Expanded use of SDAP to put shared resources in hands of teacher

**2. What initiatives for improving efficiency of operations are planned in FY15?**

As the DOE continues working with the Education Delivery Institute we will also continue to incorporate a results-driven approach to delivering on its ambitious goals and outcomes for students. The heart of delivery is rigorously and regularly asking and answering these four questions:

--What is our system trying to do?

--How are we planning to do it?

--At any given moment, how will we know whether we are on track?

--If not, what are we going to do about it?

**3. What are the standard performance or metrics by which you judge the success and efficiencies of your agencies outcomes?**

DOE's overall aspiration is that all students graduate high school ready for college, careers and life. This is measured by the following four outcomes:

- a. Students enter 4<sup>th</sup> grade proficient/advanced in reading
- b. Students enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade proficient/advanced in math
- c. The gap for Native American students is eliminated
- d. Students graduate high school ready for postsecondary or the workforce

**4. What funds from FY14 are planned to be applied to FY15 activities? Are these amounts in addition to amounts contained in the Governor's FY15 budget?**

The Governor's budget recommendation includes funding for the following items to be funded in FY15 from FY14 dollars:

- a. General funds in the amount of \$194,360 to pay for one-time costs of the teacher evaluation software (TeachScape) in FY14.
- b. General funds in the amount of \$500,000 to allow the DOE to purchase a new eGrant system. The current system is out-of-date and lacks flexibility and support that is much needed. In addition, the new system will aid in the faster completion of the CAFR.

- c. General funds in the amount of \$600,000 for one-time K-12 technology upgrades. This will upgrade servers, disk shelves, and replace 50TB of storage area network at the K-12 data center at DSU.

**5. What are your plans regarding amending the FY14 General Bill?**

The Governor has recommended the following items as amendments to the Department of Education's budget appropriated in the FY14 General Bill:

- a. A reduction in state aid to general education
    - i. General Funds - \$(5,874,773)
  - b. One-time funding for the Teacher Evaluation software
    - i. General Funds - \$194,360
  - c. One-time funding to purchase a new eGrant system
    - i. General Funds - \$500,000
  - d. One-time funding for K-12 technology upgrades
    - i. General Funds - \$600,000
  - e. In addition, the Bureau of Finance and Management (BFM) and the Bureau of Human Resources (BHR) will be proposing some amendments pertaining to bureau billings and health insurance. The details will be presented by BFM and BHR and are proposed in HB1040 An Act to revise the General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2014 (Just waiting for bill to drop to get number)
6. What programs and services offered by your agency have been, or will be affected by federal budget reductions due to the Budget Control Act of 2011 or other actions by the federal government? Were General Funds and/or Other Funds used to support the continuation of these programs or services?
- a. Please see Attachment A for a list programs that were affected by the 2013 sequestration. Funding was mostly in grants that flow through to local school districts. No General or Other Funds were used to replace the cut funds.
  - b. In addition, funding available for the Coordinated School Health program has been reduced significantly. DOE previously received the grant funding for Coordinated School Health which was approximately \$700,000. In 2013 the Center for Disease Control and Prevention made the determination that the grants would no longer go to state departments of education, but would go to state departments of health with a percentage of funding then being provided for one FTE in the state department of education. Basically it was a \$600,000 loss of grant funding. The

department of education is now receiving to provide an FTE and services to LEAs through the new Good and Healthy grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Melody Schopp".

Dr. Melody Schopp  
Secretary, Department of Education