

# Kirsten Baesler

Superintendent, Dept. of Public Instruction  
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Kirsten Baesler is Superintendent of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. She took office Jan. 2, 2013.

The department oversees the education of more than 110,000 public and private school students. It monitors K-12 programs, administers state aid to schools, and approves credentials for administrators and education specialists.

Before she became superintendent, Superintendent Baesler had a 23-year career with Bismarck's public schools.

She is a former Bismarck public school vice principal, library media specialist, classroom teacher and instructional assistant. She also worked for the North Dakota School Boards Association.

Superintendent Baesler served on the Mandan school board for nine years, including seven years as its president.

She holds two associates' degrees from Bismarck State College, a bachelor's degree in education from Minot State University, and a master's degree in education and library information technology from Valley City State University.

The Department of Public Instruction has 99 employees and a two-year budget of \$2.33 billion, most of which is distributed as state aid to local school districts. The department also oversees the State Library, in Bismarck; the state School for the Blind/North Dakota Vision Services, in Grand Forks; and the state School for the Deaf, in Devils Lake.

Superintendent Baesler serves on 15 boards, including the Education Standards and Practices Board; the Educational Technology Council; the Teachers' Fund for Retirement board; and the Board of University and School Lands, which manages state land holdings and oversees a \$3 billion trust fund that benefits North Dakota's public schools.

She is a member of the board of directors for the National Dropout Prevention Center at Clemson University, and a member of the Joe Foss Institute's Civics Education Initiative advisory board. She has completed the Harvard Graduate School Educational Leadership Program.

Superintendent Baesler is a native of Flasher, N.D. She lives in Mandan, N.D., and has three adult sons.