

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Williams County Public School District Education and Collaboration Study  
on track for March completion**

**Williston, N.D., (February 10, 2020)** – Lead contractors for the Williams County Public School District Education and Collaboration Study confirm that a comprehensive report of findings is on track for a March release. The final report intends to provide school district leaders, policymakers, and the public insight about long-term solutions to the challenges of creating quality K-12 schools and opportunities for all students in the County.

On January 24, 2020, study team sub-contractors presented progress reports and preliminary data to study team leads Dr. David Flowers and Dr. Jeff Schatz. Finalized information from the subcontractors is anticipated to be compiled by February 15, 2020, which will then be analyzed by the leads. The leads will compose a final report that will be submitted to Williams County Commissioners and presented to the public. The final report will include an executive summary, recommendations, and potential scenarios along with each subcontractor's summary report and supporting raw data.

Over the past few months, Dr. Flowers and Dr. Schatz have met with superintendents and board presidents from each of the six public school districts in the County and the five Williams County Commissioners to discuss the scope, goals, and processes involved in the study. District superintendents and board members were also asked to submit their input on their district's own strengths and weaknesses as well as opportunities and threats.

In mid-November, Dr. Flowers and Dr. Schatz authorized designated subcontractors assigned to the project to begin to collect and assemble data for the four key components of the study: (1) Budget, Finance, and Taxation; (2) Student Enrollment and Demographics; (3) Curriculum and Student Opportunity; and (4) Property and Facility Assessment.

The financial and taxation analysis team has researched enrollment history, taxable valuation history, mill levy history, and how districts are expending resources. Data pertaining to live births, demographics, and enrollment projections from the past several years has been gathered from the state and school districts to be able to provide five-year enrollment and growth projections for the county and public school districts. Academic and extracurricular opportunities available to students in each district are being identified as part of the student opportunity audit. The property and facility

assessment will provide an overview of all of school facilities in each Williams County public school district with a specific look at capacity utilization and adequacy of the facilities.

Lastly, Prime46, a market research firm, has completed a month-long perception phone survey of randomly selected respondents from each public school district, based on district population. The firm is now assembling and analyzing the results from the survey, which included public input on quality of life, quality of education, leadership, taxation, and facilities.

Additional information about the components of the study and associated subcontractors can be found by visiting <http://bit.ly/362wpNu>.

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