

March 9, 2023

Honorable Laurie Pryor
571 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pryor:

Thank you for the time and effort you and your committee have put into the omnibus education policy bill, HF 1269. We have appreciated your willingness to meet with us and listen to our feedback throughout the session. As you know, our organizations have consistently advocated for allowing our locally elected school boards, working with their administrators, students, parents, and communities, to make decisions about curriculum and instruction and to refrain from enacting new mandates, particularly unfunded mandates.

Collectively, our organizations' memberships reach far and wide across Minnesota. Locally elected school board members across Minnesota, rural and metropolitan superintendents, principals, special education, curriculum, and technology leaders from all corners of the state. Together, we offer the following areas of support and concern within the bill.

We support:

- Article 1, Sections 4 - 5 – modifications to the duties of the School Trust Lands director.
- Article 2, Section 5– greater flexibility with the required academic standards in math and science.
- Article 2, Section 40 – prohibiting an institution, in the application of a concurrent enrollment course, from requiring a faith statement during the application process or basing any part of the admission decision on a student's race, creed, ethnicity, disability, gender, or sexual orientation or religious beliefs or affiliations.
- Article 2, Section 44 – the establishment of the Online Instruction Act.
- Article 4, Section 37 – repealing the successful completion of a teacher competency exam.
- Article 4, Section 46 – the creation of the short-call substitute teacher program.

We have concerns about the following:

- Article 2, Section 3 – Required compensation for e-learning days.
- Article 2, Sections 11 - 12 – adding new reporting requirements under the World's Best Workforce statute.
- Article 2, Section 21 - Requiring a school board to adopt a written policy to address malicious and sadistic conduct. Current MSBA model policy already covers this.
- Article 2, Section 22 – requiring the use of non-exclusionary discipline in ALL cases and not providing resources necessary for staffing and facilities.
- Article 4, Section 2 – requiring a written policy on curriculum. Curriculum decisions should be made by locally elected school boards working with their staff, parents, and communities.

- Article 4, Section 41 – allowing Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) teachers to obtain continuing contract status.
- Article 4, Section 42 – decreasing the number of instructional days required during the probationary period from 120 to 60.
- Article 4, Section 50 – making class size, student testing and student to personnel ratios terms and conditions of employment.

Thank you for your consideration and we stand ready to assist you in any way we can over the next weeks to pass legislation that meets the needs of our students and our communities.

Sincerely,

Association of Metropolitan School Districts



MN Association of School Administrators



MN Association of Secondary School Principals



MN Elementary School Principals Association



MN Rural Education Association



MN School Boards Association



Schools for Equity in Education



copy: House Education Policy Committee Members