

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1135
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

January 13, 2021

By: Kirsten Baesler, Superintendent of Public Instruction

701-328-4570

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kirsten Baesler, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of North Dakota. I am here to speak in favor of HB 1135, regarding proficiency-based grading for the North Dakota Academic and CTE Scholarship.

HB 1135 will allow districts that use locally approved proficiency-based grading scales as part of an approved innovative waiver to have those grades count towards meeting the criteria of the North Dakota Academic and CTE Scholarship, commonly referred to as the state scholarship. Two of the requirements for the scholarship are to have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4-point scale, and also to have no grades lower than a C. These current requirements are based on a traditional A, B, C, D grading scale. Students graduating from schools using a proficiency-based grading scale are not currently eligible for the scholarship. HB 1135 allows schools to use equivalent scores from the proficiency-based grading scale to meet the North Dakota academic and CTE scholarship requirements. HB 1135 adds value to innovative education and rewards all students who work hard to earn the North Dakota scholarship.

Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee that concludes my prepared testimony and I will stand for any questions that you may have.