



1 **SB 2136 – Relating to scholarship eligibility requirements and amounts for students -**
2 **NDCEL Testimony in Support**

3 **January 12, 2021**

4 Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee – My name is Dr. Russ
5 Ziegler, and I am the assistant director for the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders. I am
6 testifying today in support of SB 2136.

7 As a former principal, and more importantly a former mathematics teacher, I support the inclusion
8 of Integrated Math II and III for this scholarship in place of Algebra II. The Integrated Math
9 curriculum is at or above the Algebra II curriculum standards. What makes Integrated Math II and
10 III so good is that the students will be solving real world problems which gives the standards
11 relevance for the students. This increased relevance will increase the students’ interest in
12 mathematics, and they will realize how and why math is utilized in their future careers.

13 This year has taught the education community many things – such as the pros and cons to on-line
14 learning, that students and teachers will rise to the challenges that are placed in front of them, and
15 that often change is required and if done right it does not have to be feared. I believe that education
16 has grown leaps and bounds because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. One of these areas is that students
17 can learn outside of the classroom in a brick and mortar school. For graduation requirements they
18 may not be a set course for students to follow. There are other courses that are more engaging and
19 interesting to some students than others. In other words, there are multiple ways for a student to
20 gain what is needed to be college and career ready. This world has never been and will never be a
21 one size fits all container. This bill allows for students to travel different paths and still receive the
22 acknowledgement that they so deserve.

23 NDCEL encourages you to have a do pass on this bill.

24 Thank you for your time.