

Medina Public School District #3

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<http://www.medina.k12.nd.us/>

“We Enter to Learn, We Leave to Achieve”

Testimony on SB 2219

January 26, 2021

Tara Hofmann, Principal, Medina Public Schools

Chairman Schaible and Members of the Committee:

I am writing this testimony in support of Reading Corps for Senate Bill 2219. We have had the Reading Corps program in our school for the past 1 ½ years. I worked closely with this program for an additional 3 years in a prior role in a different ND school district. After working with ND Reading Corps for 3 years, I knew that my current school district could benefit from this program. We have many students who don't qualify for Title I support, but we knew they needed individual support in developing early reading skills. Reading Corps is based on researched interventions with fidelity checks to make sure that interventions are being delivered effectively. We review data regularly and meet with a master coach to be specific on instructional delivery and student engagement. We meet to adjust instruction as needed.

When we were approached about adding the program to our school in 2019-2020, I visited with our superintendent and shared the success and support it provided to students I had worked with in another school district. He was supportive and we were pleasantly surprised when we were able to access the program for free, due to state funding support. We implemented ND Reading Corps in the 2019-2020 school year and we quickly identified students who would benefit from this program and support. We had students enter the program and have great reading gains. We were able to exit many students during the year and serve additional students. Teachers, parents, and students have seen the benefit of this program.

When the decision needed to be made about continuing the program into the 2020-2021 school year, with the possibility of us needing to pay for it, my superintendent said that we would continue, even with the cost. He saw the benefits of the program and the growth in students and agreed that we needed to continue the program. We were also presented the opportunity to add Math Corps to our school and we added that without hesitation because we know the

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effectiveness of Reading Corps and wanted to provide the same type of systematic and specific support for students.

The Reading Corps program has been beneficial for more than 25 of our students who would not have received instructional support without this program. Not only has this program supported students, the teaching strategies have been shared with classroom teachers and specialists who can use the effective teaching tools in their own classroom and with small groups.

I encourage our ND Legislative Assembly to continue to support the Reading Corps program to help bring this support to more students and staff. As a rural school, these programs don't always get to us as quickly, but with support of our legislature and with state funding, more schools will have the opportunity to provide this support for their community.

Thank you for your time and support of education.

Sincerely,

Tara Hofmann
PreK-12 principal, Medina Public School

