

Approve SB2013

Dear committee,

I am urging you to approve the education budget outlined in SB2013. In the midst of many devastating cuts to education in our state, this bill will help safeguard the Northern Plains Writing Project and the Red River Writing Project, two graduate programs designed to improve the quality of K-12 public education in our state.

It is no secret that North Dakota is already in need of high-quality educators. As a former graduate of the Northern Plains Writing Project, I can't fully express how my time with that group has enhanced my teaching in my high school Language Arts classes. The techniques, pedagogy, and relationships I gained from this program lead me to improve my teaching by leaps and bounds and eventually go on to earn a Master's degree in Education. I will forever be grateful for the taxpayer investment in furthering my education, and I hope to pay that investment forward to the graduating seniors leaving my classroom with reading, writing and critical thinking skills I wouldn't have been able to offer them without the Writing Project. Many of my colleagues are also graduates of the program, and I know they feel similarly.

To revoke funding for these programs, as well as libraries across the state, is to further insist that an investment in our state's education systems are not a priority, which will in turn drive prospective educators and graduating students away from our great state in droves. For this reason, among many others, I urge you to approve the budget outlined in SB2013.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jacob Thomas High School Language Arts teacher Minot State University graduate