



Great Public Schools

Great Public Service

**Testimony Before the Senate Education Committee
HB 1369
Monday, March 17, 2025**

Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee, I am ND United president, Nick Archuleta, and I am here today to urge a ***do pass*** recommendation for HB 1369 and to respectfully request an amendment to HB 1369 that increases the allocation to the K-12 Funding Formula from 2 percent each year of the coming biennium to 4 percent each year of the coming biennium.

Members of the Committee, as I am sure you know, North Dakota's schools have not been immune from the inflation that has increased the cost of about everything these past few years. Inflation has driven up the costs of everything that schools need to function well. While inflation has eased, it is still at a stubborn 2.9%, and given the current state of the global economy, easing inflation is certainly not a guarantee. At the last interim education funding committee meeting, it was noted that given the increased contribution from the Common Schools Trust Fund and other factors, a 4 and 4 increase was quite doable.

Mr. Chairman, in the past 10 years, food prices are up 31.5%. Gas prices are up 43.7%. Teachers' salaries have increased just 1.68% per year from 2013-2024. I am confident that North Dakota can do better than 2 and 2 for schools and professionals who do the hard and important work of educating our future.

With that, Chairman Beard, and members of the Committee, I urge a do pass recommendation for HB 1369 and respectfully ask that you consider an amendment to increase the allocation to 4% for each year of the upcoming biennium.