

Milnor Public School District No. 2

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Chris Larson, Superintendent and Activities Director
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To: North Dakota
House of Representatives
Education Committee

From: Chris Larson
Superintendent
Milnor Public School

Date: Monday, February 1, 2021

Topic: HB 1478

As a leader of a small school, I feel it is necessary to speak out in support of HB 1478. The additional flexibility provided by HB 1478 would allow a more personalized learning system for schools and open additional possibilities for students.

HB 1478 provides a structure for achieving credit outside of the traditional classroom. We already have some of this opportunity through the CTE system in North Dakota. This has been a value to many students in my district and to the community. I view 1478 as an expansion of what already exists. The first thing that comes to mind for me is physical education credits for students that already participate in athletics. Is a basketball player really mastering skills in a PE course that they are not in their sport? For the vast majority, the answer is no. What if we could give that credit out for participation in the activity? This hour in their school day could be spent taking a different class that may better suit the long-term goals of the student, or even in the community learning work-based skills.

In small school districts we have a small number of teachers and in turn, a small number of course offerings each hour. If we can add flexibility to allow students to show their proficiency in other ways, there is a direct and immediate benefit to the student. This creates larger potential for college credit and work-related experiences that have a financial benefit to families and to the local community.

I urge you to send HB 1478 with a “do pass” recommendation.

Sincerely,

Chris Larson
Superintendent
Milnor Public School