



(701)572-1580 phone
(701)572-3547 fax

Williston Basin School District #7

1201 9th Ave NW
P.O. Box 1407
Williston, ND 58802

www.willistonschools.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1/24/23

Williston, N.D., (January 24, 2023) – To the members of the North Dakota House Education Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 1251. Williston Basin School District # 7 is in its 2nd year as a newly reorganized school district.

Today Williston Basin School District #7 educates over 5,000 students. Within our district, we have 13 schools, 12 Principals and 6 Assistant Principals, six Directors, one Assistant Superintendent, and one Superintendent. We also employ 750+ employees across the district.

Reading this bill, it is clear to me that those who support it also support taking away local control. Local voters want a say in what's best for their community. There are some schools who already share Superintendents because they have decided it was the right choice for their community. We are not opposed to the concept of district sharing, however, that decision should be made by the local community to see if it is a good fit for them. In rural communities, the school is often one of the key centers of the community, rural communities are vested and proud of their schools and what is going on within the schools. They have the right to make local decisions about staffing in their schools.

Many proponents of this bill think that this is a way to trim costs. It will not. For each Superintendent that is shared, affected districts will have to add additional duties to other members of their staff to help with the workload, which in turn, typically equals an increase in compensation to those staff members. If they do not disburse duties among other staff, then double or triple the load will fall solely onto the shoulders of the shared Superintendent. Again, the additional duties typically come with an increase in compensation. Having so many duties can also lead to burnout, and could cause a shortage of Superintendents and Superintendent candidates in North Dakota in the long run.

Please vote NO on House Bill No. 1251.

Chris Jundt, WBSD#7 School Board President

Kyle Renner, WBSD#7 School Board Vice President

Cory Swint, WBSD#7 School Board Director

Sarah Williams, WBSD#7 School Board Director

Chris Walstad, WBSD#7 School Board Director

Heather Wheeler, WBSD#7 School Board Director

John Kasmer, WBSD#7 School Board Director

The Williston Basin School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.



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