



North Dakota Small Organized Schools

Mr. Michael Heilman
Executive Director
3144 Hampton Street
Bismarck, ND 58504
mheilmanndsos@gmail.com
701-527-4621

Mr. Brandt Dick
President
1929 N. Washington Steet. Ste.A
Bismarck, ND 58501
Brandt.Dick@k12.nd.us
701-415-0441

Mr. Steven Heim
Vice-President
PO Box 256
Drake, ND 58736
Steve.heim@k12.nd.us
701-465-3732

HB 1304 Testimony in Support
House Education Committee
Representative Heinert – Chairperson
January 24, 2023

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Michael Heilman. I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools (NDSOS). I represent 150-member school districts of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools. NDSOS stands in support HB 1304.

This bill like several others in this and the previous sessions is designed to provide a pathway for entry into the teaching profession to address teacher shortage. This bill is specific to the shortage of Special Education Teachers. Special Education continues to be one of the greatest areas of need for all schools and is particularly critical for small schools. All shortage areas are difficult to deal with, but shortages in special education impact our most fragile learners. Often compromising the supports this group of learners need to be successful. The shortage of special education teacher has a ripple effect in the classroom as teachers do not have the support of the specialist to assist with developing interventions and modification for students on Individualized Education Plans (IEP). This in turn impact all students as teacher time may be compromised when special education teachers are not available.

This bill provides a pathway for our schools to secure much needed special education teachers. North Dakota Small Organized Schools supports a do pass recommendation for HB 1304. I will stand for questions.

Mr. Michael Heilman – Executive Director
North Dakota Small Organized Schools
mheilmanndsos@gmail.com
701.527.4621

Board of Directors

Region 1

Mr. Tim Holte, Supt. Stanley
Mr. John Gruenberg, Supt. Powers Lake

Region 2

Mr. Jeff Hagler, Supt. North Star
Mr. Steven Heim, Anamoose & Drake

Region 3

Dr. Frank Schill, Supt. Edmore
Mr. David Wheeler, Supt. Manvel

Region 4

Mr. Brian Christopherson, Supt. New Salem
Dr. Kelly Peters, Supt. Richardton-Taylor

Region 5

Mr. Rick Diegel, Supt. Kidder Co.
Mr. Brandt Dick, Supt. Burleigh County

Region 6

Mr. Mitch Carlson, Supt. LaMoure
Dr. Steven Johnson, Supt. Lisbon

The mission of NDSOS is to provide leadership for the small/rural schools in North Dakota and to support legislation favorable to their philosophy while opposing legislation that is harmful.