

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dylan Steffen, and I am a teacher at Dickinson Middle School in Dickinson, North Dakota. I recently read bill SB 2260, and I have many concerns about the bill and how it would impact my ability to make the best professional decisions possible for my students and their learning.

I am a STEM teacher. Therefore, it is my job to teach students how to use technology and how to use the engineering design process to solve problems. I have overall goals for students that I would like for them to achieve by the end of each semester, but the most important thing is that they learn critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity.

I also have the amazing opportunity to teach my students how to use some fantastic technologies: 3D printers, LASER engravers, heavy shop tools, drones, etc. While we are using those technologies, we might need to change course at the drop of a hat due to many different factors: weather, repairs for the technology, or possible student absences.

Lesson plans being posted seven days in advance of any lesson is not feasible. Those lesson plans will have changed many times by the time the lesson actually takes place. The reasons for these changes are myriad. The instances I mentioned above, for example. I might have a lesson planned to teach students how to use a 3D printer in one week, but then the 3D printer isn't working that day so we have to pivot and do something else. Even more importantly, lessons change on a weekly, daily, or sometimes even hourly basis to best meet the needs of students. If a student is having trouble with a lesson, the next day or even later that class period, it is best practice for teachers to shift how they are teaching or change the lesson to best accommodate that student's needs so they can learn.

At Dickinson Middle School, we believe that all students can learn. A bill like SB2260 will make it nearly impossible for all students to learn because of the rigid requirements that will be placed on teachers. Those rigid requirements will be passed on to students because they will not be able to learn in the best way for them because teachers will not be allowed to change their lessons.

The most important reasons this bill is detrimental are because of the negative effects it will have on student learning and achievement. However, the negative effects this bill will impact teachers negatively. The teaching profession is already experiencing a mass exodus. Teachers are in short supply, and teachers

that remain in their positions are overworked. Teachers are already teaching classes with more students than they can handle with very little support. Paraprofessionals are leaving at unprecedented levels, which leaves teachers entirely on their own in classrooms with ever increasing student numbers. Asking teachers to post their lesson plans weeks in advance is yet another thing that will be expected of teachers, another thing on their plate that they do not have time to accomplish. As teachers, our job is to build relationships with kids so that they can learn to be good citizens and functioning members of society. Every single thing that takes time away from those efforts is detrimental to our kids and to our society as a whole.

Thank you for your time,

Dylan Steffen