



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 1398– Testimony in Support
Senate Education Committee
Senator Elkin – Chairman
March 14, 2023

Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate 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 of HB 1398 with the addition of the proposed amendment allowing for the integration of this curriculum as approved by the local school board.

There is no question that the availability of computer science and specifically cybersecurity education is important. Our schools can be a critical link in ensuring that students are given exposure, awareness and a career pathway if they choose. What we struggle with, especially our small schools, is finding the staff and the time to add another requirement. We continue to add, but seldom do we remove a requirement. Yes, we make concessions by allowing substitutions, which personally I appreciate and am in favor of, as it allows students to personalize their education to meet their needs. My concern is that additional requirements make personalization more difficult and why I support that addition of the integration plan language to this bill.

NDSOS stands in favor of HB 1398 with the proposed amendment allowing for a locally approved integration plan.

Michael Heilman
NDSOS Executive Director
mheilmanndsos@gmail.org
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.