



1 SB 2351 Data on Clearing a classroom

2 Testimony in support with request for amendment

3 Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education committee we come to you today
4 in general support of this concept but with a very real need for amendments.

5 In an ideal world this bill would achieve desired outcomes...it would provide data that
6 could help assist the legislature, NDDPI, NDDHS, and schools in the ongoing quest we
7 must tackle the behavioral health issues in our schools. However, I come to you today
8 saying we are supportive of the concept, but we are imploring you to turn this into a
9 study to do this the right way.

10 There are several things that need adjustment to make this bill at all workable for
11 schools.

12 1) NDDPI needs to create a tool for data collection or PowerSchool needs to be
13 adjusted for data input and even that would be incredibly cumbersome. A new
14 tool is likely needed which will likely come at a cost.

15 2) We need an analysis of current data points districts currently collect and could
16 implement and what other data points would be necessary – we do not need to
17 have duplicative reporting and cannot afford the time to do so. We must be aware
18 of the ability to collect such data at this moment will be very driven by school size.

19 3) Funding will need to be appropriated for NDDPI to study data points needed,
20 create a tool for collection, and FTE support at the district level to do this work.
21 In our schools, especially in our rural schools, our current employees have no
22 capacity to do such data reporting so additional staff may need to be hired.

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for all students in North Dakota.*

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1 Perhaps it is time for the state to fund the hiring of a behavioral health coordinator
2 in each building rather than that job simply being assigned to a person who
3 already has a full-time job... and then that person could be in charge of this data
4 collection. With about 400 school buildings across the state that would only be
5 an investment of about \$40M?

6 4) Cross walking data into subgroups such as special education students will take
7 additional time as well as work with the SPED and IEP team to the data reporter
8 to understand the manifestation that determines the cause.

9 5) The penalty should be removed. We continue to see bills that list a penalty for
10 schools. Please understand that schools want to solve this problem with
11 behavioral and mental health probably more than any population of adults
12 working with these kids. We are the ones coming to you literally begging for
13 fiscal support as we work to serve these students. To have to suggest penalties is
14 unnecessary. If properly funded and supported with FTE support the data will be
15 collected.

16 As is stands in this bill, this could be the most difficult, time consuming and arduous
17 reporting asked for of school districts as we consider all the numerous reporting
18 requirements schools currently deal with. For fun, I've included below the current
19 reporting requirements for schools, in-case you were curious.

20 We respectfully ask that this bill be turned into a study so we can come together and
21 figure out how to do this in a way that helps students and isn't just another unfunded
22 mandate on schools that has no endpoint or result in an assistive product for students.