



North Dakota Small Organized Schools

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SB 2188 Testimony in Opposition
Senate Education Committee
Senator Larson – Chairperson
January 17, 2023

Senator Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary 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 opposition SB 2188.

Most, if not all the sections of this bill are currently covered in ND Century Code, are part of the approval and accreditation process, or are standard operating procedures for schools. North Dakota School Boards Association does an excellent job informing districts of required polices that cover much of what is in this bill.

Schools encourage parental involvement through orientation sessions, focus groups, parent advisory committees, parent teacher conference, fine arts and athletic booster groups. Information is shared via multiple forms of messaging, including emails, power school, websites, instant messaging, Facebook, twitter and school board meetings just to mention a few ways parents are informed and encouraged to be involved in their children’s education.

NDSOS also has reservations about the last section of the bill related to collection of district-level data. We would question how this section of the bill might impact the collection of interim assessment data, standardized test data, report cards, student progress reports, teacher grade books, athletic team data, behavioral/disciplinary data just to name a few.

With existing laws and regulations NDSOS believes this legislation is unnecessary and stands in opposition to this SB 2188.

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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.