

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2362**

Introduced by

Senators Schaible, Lemm, Weber

Representatives Jonas, Pyle

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-02-11 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to the accreditation of schools.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-02-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **15.1-02-11. Superintendent of public instruction - Accreditation of schools - Rules.**

7 1. The superintendent of public instruction ~~may~~:

8 a. May adopt rules governing the accreditation of public and nonpublic schools. Any  
9 rule adopted under this section must incorporate measures of student  
10 achievement and bear a direct relationship to improving student achievement.

11 b. May provide schools with a choice of accreditation options, including:

12 (1) Accreditation through a state-defined accreditation process established by  
13 the superintendent of public instruction; or

14 (2) Accreditation through a nationally recognized accrediting organization, a  
15 formal school improvement organization, or a continuous improvement  
16 organization approved by the superintendent of public instruction.

17 c. May establish a process to select the accreditation options for schools and a  
18 process for schools to select an accreditation option. Development of the process  
19 may include input and participation from a steering committee, including  
20 representatives of education stakeholder groups, school administrators,  
21 secondary and elementary school principals, and school board members.

- 1           d. Periodically shall review and evaluate the effectiveness of each accreditation
- 2           option in improving student achievement and school performance.
- 3        2. Each accreditation option must:
- 4           a. Meet or exceed the state standards to ensure consistency in the quality of
- 5           education.
- 6           b. Provide measurable outcomes for student achievement, aligning with the state
- 7           goals.
- 8        3. A school may select the accreditation option best aligning to the instructional goals
- 9           and operational needs of the school, subject to approval by the superintendent of
- 10        public instruction.
- 11        4. The superintendent of public instruction shall contract with an accreditation
- 12           organization or vendor to create state-provided accreditation to offer to each public
- 13           school district at no charge.
- 14        5. If a district chooses to use an accreditation process from the state-approved list, the
- 15           district is responsible for any accreditation-related costs.