

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1238**  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**January 21, 2025**  
**By: Ann Ellefson, Director of Academic Support**  
**North Dakota Department of Public Instruction**

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Vice Chair Schrieber-Beck and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ann Ellefson, Director of Academic Support with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI). I am here to provide informational testimony, on behalf of the department, regarding the department's collaborative partnership with the North Dakota Educational Hub and its connection to the teacher licensure process.

The North Dakota Educational Hub is an online platform that contains a variety of professional development, training opportunities, and educator resources in one centralized, easy-to-access online location. The online location is at [my.ndeducationalhub.org](https://my.ndeducationalhub.org). With initial planning beginning in 2021, today's Educational Hub is a product of collaborative partnerships between the NDDPI, each of the six North Dakota Regional Education Associations, and other state agency partners. NDDPI has prioritized its discretionary Title II funds to provide access to the Educational Hub at no cost for North Dakota educators as well as other school officials participating in training or coursework. The department has been successful

in its initial vision of providing access to no-cost professional development to all zip codes across the state.

The North Dakota Educational Hub hosts professional development and continuing education courses through synchronous, asynchronous, and hybrid delivery models. Education personnel are able to participate in this professional development through models that work best for each individual and with flexible access regarding time. Additionally, many courses on the Hub are available for college credit, providing an easy route to educator license renewal. The course structure provides opportunities for school improvement, role-focused training, life-long learning for areas of development or interest, and even coursework to assist in meeting state or federal requirements.

All courses within the Hub are offered at low- or no-cost for educators. Some entities charge a nominal cost for a course (\$40 registration), which goes directly to the course developer to assist with implementation, oversight, and future course refinement. When offered for college credit, a standardized price has also been negotiated with Valley City State University to assist with the cost of course transcriptions and documenting continuing education credits. It is important to note the Educational Hub also has the ability to provide transcript documentation regarding course completion, even if college credit is not pursued. The ability of the ND Educational Hub to document and transcript individual learning has been a well-

utilized component. For instance, when schools are required to report staff Science of Reading training status, this information is easily available through the Educational Hub. In neighboring states that have structures similar to the Educational Hub, the requirement of a university transcript for teacher licensure has been eliminated and ongoing professional development is documented through their state-provided learning management system.

Since the North Dakota Educational Hub launched, we have had over 4,000 unique users within the system; currently, there are 557 active users pursuing courses. As of today there are a total of 68 courses open for enrollment within the North Dakota Educational Hub. There are a variety of topics for all education personnel, including child nutrition, North Dakota Native American studies, the science of reading, teacher and paraprofessional supports, mathematics, educator ethics, topical book studies, and specialized courses provided by the Regional Education Associations.

Access to the North Dakota Educational Hub provides a system that allows the state and our partners to proactively provide professional development and training on important topics or rising issues in an expedited manner to all four corners of North Dakota.

Madam Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee, this concludes my testimony. I stand for any questions.