

1 HB 1357- Data Sharing – by Dr. Jeff Fastnacht, Superintendent, Bismarck Public  
2 School District.

3 I stand in support of HB 1357. Student-level data, presently held within  
4 PowerSchool, has always been viewed as the property of the child/parent first.  
5 Schools were permitted to create, retain, and view large amounts of student data by  
6 the very premise that we were in the classroom with the child. Educators who worked  
7 with a child daily needed access to attendance, grades, behavior plans, IEPs, and  
8 more. That said, even within a school system, we provide safeguards and limitations  
9 to that access. An aide working in the room, who may also have access to  
10 PowerSchool, was not able to access lunch status or discipline records unless there  
11 was a need to know.

12 I support this bill by asking other state agencies, including NDDPI, NDIT, and  
13 others, to just define what you want access to, why, and how long you wish to access  
14 student data at the student level. We already report grade level and school level data  
15 via NDInsights, which is a premier portal for all to monitor the progress of our  
16 schools. However, with ever-growing concerns about data privacy and the changing  
17 landscape of technology, including the adoption of Infinite Campus, I feel it is only  
18 right to ask agencies, including the legislature, to provide a rationale for access  
19 versus just getting individual student grades, attendance, discipline records, and such  
20 without a data sharing agreement.