



# North Dakota Senate

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## Senator Chuck Walen

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## COMMITTEES:

Finance and Taxation  
State and Local Government

2/4/2025

Senate Education

## SB 2295

Chairman Beard and Committee members:

For the record my name is Chuck Walen, District 4 Senator and grandfather of 19 children who either home school or go to public school.

SB 2295 is a bill to meet the state's obligation to fund education of K-12 students per our state constitution. This will take over the property tax portion of most of the school funding. This includes the 70 mills general fund, 12 mills for educational services, 12 mills for miscellaneous purposes and expenses, and tuition mills. They retain any mills for buildings, safety plans and special reserve funds.

We have a total of 154,850 students in the state, of these 7904 are non public students, and 5009 are home school students. The weighted per student cost in our state are \$14345. Total of 4.421 billion per biennium, 370 million for non public and Home school students.

Parents of all these students pay taxes and should be entitled to compensation to pay for the cost to educate their children wherever they go to school.

In this bill I have reduced the amount paid to Non public to 75% and Home school to 50% of the per pupil payment. Non public and Home schools may choose to opt in to have the payment and are not required to take it. The public schools are to receive the difference between the non-public and home school payments.

It is also my intent that any special needs children are paid the actual cost to educate those students.

This type of bill has been talked about for many years, and it is time for the state to fulfill its promise to the citizens.

Please vote to do pass on SB 2295

I stand for any questions