

TESTIMONY ON SB 2263
SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
January 30, 2025
By: Ann Ellefson, Director of Academic Support
North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chair Wobbema 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 supportive testimony on Senate Bill 2263 regarding grants to provide time for training and planning for the mastery framework.

SB 2186 was passed by the legislative assembly in 2017 and SB 2196 in 2021, and together, these bills provide the ultimate flexibility for local school districts to “do school differently.” As the department lead for the personalized, competency-based education work in North Dakota, I am honored to work so closely with a variety of districts implementing these bills. It has provided the state education department great insight into the complexity and logistics of transforming educational systems and informed our practices moving forward. What we have learned is that this work is complex and very challenging for school systems to innovate at a systems level while also conducting the daily operations of their districts.

A grant structure, such as the one outlined in SB 2263, would provide the much-needed time, space, and supplemental funding for districts to pursue educational

innovation within their systems and encourage more districts to explore the great flexibility provided by the North Dakota Learning Continuum and Mastery Framework structures afforded to them.

Chair Wobbema and Members of the Committee, thank you for your leadership and commitment to the state of North Dakota. This concludes my testimony and I stand for any questions.