

Senate Workforce Development Committee

Senator Wobbema, Chair

January 30, 2025

Senator Wobbema and Members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee,

My name is Mark Vollmer, and I am honored to serve as the Executive Director of the North Dakota K-12 Coordination Council. Today, I stand before you to express support for SB 2263, a bill that will provide essential funding for mastery framework training grants.

The North Dakota K-12 Coordination Council urges your support for this legislation. In just a few moments, you will hear from Dr. Sarah Ricks, an Instructional Coach from Dickinson Public Schools. Dr. Ricks represents secondary teachers on our Council and chairs the Support and Innovation Subcommittee. She will provide valuable insight into how SB 2263 can foster innovation and directly support educators in our state.

Before you hear from Dr. Ricks, I would like to take a moment to highlight the key strengths of this bill:

1. **Leveraging In-State Talent** – Rather than relying on costly external consultants, SB 2263 capitalizes on the expertise and creativity already present within North Dakota's schools. Our educators are best equipped to develop innovative solutions tailored to their unique challenges.
2. **Providing Targeted Funding** – With a shortage of substitute teachers, this bill allows schools to fund teacher-led innovation outside of their regular duties, ensuring meaningful progress without disrupting classrooms.

Simply put, SB 2263 is a practical, cost-effective solution that empowers educators to drive positive change without imposing undue financial burdens on individual schools or our state budget.

Once enacted, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction will collaborate with schools receiving funding, ensuring accountability and measurable outcomes. I am confident that this bill will lead to meaningful improvements in our schools.

I respectfully ask for your support of SB 2263, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.