

2021 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2257

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2257
1/27/2021
Senate Appropriations Committee

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of public instruction for afterschool programming.
--

Chairman Holmberg opened the hearing at 8:30 a.m. Roll call: **Senators Holmberg, Krebsbach, Wanzek, Bekkedahl, Erbele, Dever, Oehlke, Poolman, Rust, Davison, Hogue, Sorvaag, Mathern, and Heckaman** were present.

Discussion Topics:

- Approximation of needed funds
- Challenge of finding personnel
- Funding vehicle – DPI vs. Human Services
- Requirements to receive afterschool grants
- Federal money
- Standards or guidelines for curriculum/Best Practices

Senator JoNell Bakke, District 43 – Bill Sponsor – testimony #3583.

Becky Eberhardt, Administrator, 21st Century Community Learning Center, DPI – testified in favor and submitted testimony #3532.

Joe Kolosky, Dept of Public Instruction testified in favor but submitted no written testimony.

Nick Archuleta, President, ND United – testified in favor and submitted testimony #3676.

Kristin Knorr, Network Lead, North Dakota Afterschool Network – testified in favor and submitted testimony # 3493.

Senator Holmberg closed the hearing at 9:20 am.

Rose Laning, Committee Clerk

Testimony for SB2257

Senator JoNell Bakke

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Appropriation Committee. It is my pleasure to stand before you and introduce SB2257. This bill would provide additional funding resources for afterschool programs across our state. This is a safety issue as well as an educational need for the children of our state. With the Covid pandemic, the increase for afterschool and childcare services has only increased. Our first responders and frontline workers need their children to be in safe and enrolled in supervised facilities when they are working.

This bill asks for an appropriation of 3.5 million dollars to provide support for the sections of the state that need afterschool programming and the children who are currently on a waiting list of existing programs. We also need to address the needs of families that do not generally qualify as a low income but because of Covid find themselves unable to pay for these programs in full.

I think this appropriation is important for the safety of elementary age children. When parents are not able to find after school supervision for their children, all too often they are given a key and go home alone to wait for their parents to get off work. These situations are so unpredictable because despite a child's mature level or the comfortable level of their parents there are always unforeseen dangers with a younger child being left at home alone.

When most people think of afterschool programming, they assume this is a babysitting service. Nothing could be farther from the truth. These programs provide help with homework, provide enrichment opportunities, craft projects, supervised play outside, story time, tutoring and a nutritious snack. Most importantly, they are supervised by multiple adults.

At the current time, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) receives a 21st Century Grant of approximately 6 million dollars from the Federal government which provides funding for afterschool programming for children. DPI allocates \$1,125 per pupil to each of these afterschool programs with the parents providing the rest of the fee, if they charge a fee at all. A portion of this grant money is kept by DPI for the administration of this program. This 21st Century Program is targeting lower income families and often has a waiting list. Presently, there are 11 grantees that are receiving 21st Century Grant Funding. There are approximately 4,000 children who attend this programming 30 days or more and over 7,000 children who attend on an occasional basis. Although those numbers seem high, this does not even begin to cover the need within the state. DPI has requests from other entities that would like support for their programs and there are many rural areas who do not have access to any programming.

An appropriation of 3.5 million dollars would allow an additional 3,000 children to participate in afterschool programming. I ask this committee to give careful consideration to the funding of additional afterschool programs across the state and hope that you will send this bill to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

I will stand for questions at this time.

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2257
Appropriations COMMITTEE**

1/27/2021

By: Becky Eberhardt, 21st CCLC Program Administrator

701-328-2295

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Committee:

My name is Becky Eberhardt and I am the 21st Century Community learning Center Program Administrator with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here to speak in favor of SB 2257.

The North Dakota department of Public Instruction administers the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC). The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program sets out to establish or expand community learning centers that provide students with academic enrichment opportunities along with activities designed to complement the students' regular academic program. Community learning centers must also offer families of these students' literacy and related educational development. Centers – which can be located in public elementary or secondary schools or other similarly accessible facilities – provide a range of high-quality services to support student learning and development, including tutoring and mentoring, homework help, academic enrichment (such as hands-on science or technology programs), and community service opportunities, as well as music, arts,

sports and cultural activities. Centers must provide academic enrichment activities to students that attend high-poverty or Title I schoolwide schools to help them meet state and local standards in core subjects especially reading, and mathematics. At the same time, centers help working parents by providing a safe environment for students when school is not in session. In the 2019-2020 school year we had 4649 students in grades pre-k to 12th grade who attended 21st CCLC programming regularly, which is defined as attending programming at least 30 days or more. In 2019-2020 there was 7419 students in pre-k to 12th grade who attending programming.

SB 2257 would provide state funding to the Department of Public Instruction to grant out to school district for afterschool programming. Afterschool programs help children learn, grow, and realize their full potential. Students learn foundational skills, like communication, teamwork, and problem solving. And the results are evident: students who attend afterschool programs are more interested in learning, attend school more often, get better grades, and are more likely to graduate.

Afterschool programs are locally-driven solutions that help children learn and grow, families balance work with home, and employers hire the workforce they need.

Afterschool programs have always been important, but as we work with our local schools and communities we understand that they have become **critically** important

as our young people attempt to accelerate their learning recovery because of Covid
19.

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Committee that concludes my
prepared testimony and I will stand for any questions that you may have.



Great Public Schools

Great Public Service

3676

**Testimony on SB 2257
Senate Appropriations Committee
January 27, 2021**

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Committee, for the record I am Nick Archuleta, president of North Dakota United. ND United is a union of professionals dedicated to public service. Our members educate PK-12 students, conduct vital research, teach in our institutions of higher education, provide education support services across the educational continuum, and provide the vital public services that North Dakotans deserve and have come to expect. On behalf of our 11,500 members, I rise today in support of SB 2257 and to urge a DO PASS recommendation on this affordable and common-sense proposal.

Members of the Committee, SB 2257 provides \$3.5M to the NDDPI to help individual school districts afford after school programming that will enhance student learning, including those students who have experienced a learning gap caused by disrupted in person learning due to the COVID pandemic. Our K-12 members have told us consistently that student achievement for many students would improve if students were given the opportunity to receive more focused instruction in the areas in which they are experiencing difficulties. SB 2257 provides that opportunity. Passing SB 2257 will emphasize the commitment our state has made to educating every student that walks, runs, rolls, or is carried through our schoolhouse doors. Furthermore, it will underscore our commitment to close the achievement gap caused by interrupted face-to-face instruction.

For these reasons, Chairman Holmberg, I urge a DO PASS recommendation for SB 2257. I am happy to stand for questions.

67th Legislative Assembly – Senate Appropriations – SB 2257

Good morning Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. My name is Kristin Knorr and I am the Network Lead for the North Dakota Afterschool Network. I am testifying in favor of Senate Bill 2257.

The ND Afterschool Network is a statewide initiative of the South East Education Cooperative and we work to increase access to high-quality afterschool and summer learning opportunities for students K-12 across the state. We equip programs with the tools and support to expand program quality, build leadership capacity, and ensure access to afterschool programs for all youth in their community.

Nearly 18,000 students K-12 participate in afterschool programming across ND. However, **for every student served, two more would participate if a program were available to them.** There are now 37,532 school-age children (38%) in North Dakota who would be enrolled in an afterschool program if one were available to them. In the last decade, the number of children unable to access afterschool programs in ND has grown by nearly 14,000 students. The top challenges parents report to enrolling their child in a program include the lack of an available program in their community, being unable to afford programming, or there is no safe transportation to and from the program.

Afterschool programs include any program offered to K-12 students outside of the school day that has regularly scheduled enrichment or academic activities. Programs can take place in a school building, community-based settings, summer camps, parks and recreation facilities, and other locations, and can be offered before school, after school, summers, weekends, and during school breaks.

High-quality afterschool programming helps develop skills, provides opportunities for growth and support, and provides a safe environment for the kids attending the program.

Kids in afterschool enjoy a wide range of benefits, including:

- Interacting with peers and building social skills
- Getting help with homework
- Taking part in physical activities and receiving healthy snacks or meals
- Building 21st century skills
- Engaging in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning

Afterschool also helps working families. ND has the fifth largest percentage of dual parent working families, with 76% of school-age children having both parents in the workforce. The America After 3pm survey found that 81% of North Dakota parents with a child in an afterschool program say that program helps them keep their job and 88% say afterschool programs give them peace of mind while they are at work.

Currently, there is no state funding for afterschool programs. School districts that do not qualify for federally funded 21st century community learning center grants by having 40% of students eligible for free or reduced priced meals are left with limited options to fund an afterschool program.

In closing, I want to thank you for your time and consideration of SB 2257, which could help more than 3,000 more students have access to an afterschool program. A state grant program would help close the gap and allow additional educational opportunities for students alone and unsupervised after school and when school is otherwise not in session. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2257
2/17/2021
Senate Appropriations Committee

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of public instruction for afterschool programming.

Chairman Holmberg opened the hearing at 10:08 a.m.

Senators present: **Holmberg, Krebsbach, Wanzek, Bekkedahl, Poolman, Erbele, Dever, Oehlke, Rust, Davison, Hogue, Sorvaag, Mathern, and Heckaman.**

Senator Poolman moved DO NOT PASS.

Senator Rust seconded the motion.

<i>Senators</i>		<i>Senators</i>	
<i>Senator Holmberg</i>	N	<i>Senator Hogue</i>	Y
<i>Senator Krebsbach</i>	Y	<i>Senator Oehlke</i>	Y
<i>Senator Wanzek</i>	Y	<i>Senator Poolman</i>	Y
<i>Senator Bekkedahl</i>	Y	<i>Senator Rust</i>	Y
<i>Senator Davison</i>	N	<i>Senator Sorvaag</i>	N
<i>Senator Dever</i>	Y	<i>Senator Heckaman</i>	N
<i>Senator Erbele</i>	Y	<i>Senator Mathern</i>	N

Motion Passed 9-5-0.

Senator Poolman will carry the bill.

Chairman Holmberg closed the hearing at 10:12 a.m.

Rose Laning, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2257: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (9 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2257 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.