

2021 SENATE EDUCATION

SB 2289

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2289
2/3/2021
9:00 AM

A BILL relating to the creation of a North Dakota scholarship; relating to references to the North Dakota scholarship, North Dakota academic scholarship, and North Dakota career and technical education scholarship; relating to the North Dakota academic and career and technical education scholarships; and to provide an effective date.

Chair Schaible opened the hearing at 9:00 a.m.

Discussion Topics:

- Education scholarships
- Choice ready

Sen Oban introduced the bill in support. #5050

Jim Upgren –NDDPI – testified in support. #4497

Jeff Fastnacht – Assist Supt - Mandan Public School – testified in support. #4495

Brenda Zastoupil – NDUS – testified neutral.

Charles Tuttle, Minot – testified neutral

Senator	Attendance
Chairman Schaible	P
Senator Elkin	P
Senator Conley	P
Senator Lemm	P
Senator Oban	P
Senator Wobbema	P

Additional written testimony:

Wayne Sick - Support #4974

Adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Lynn Wolf, Committee Clerk



NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Senator Erin Oban

District 35
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COMMITTEES:

Education
Political Subdivisions

SB 2289 – Creation of a North Dakota Scholarship

Hearing scheduled: February 3, 2021 | 9:00 am

Senate Education Committee, Sen. Schaible, Chair

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, for the record, I'm Erin Oban, senator for Bismarck's District 35. I'm here to introduce, discuss, and answer questions on SB 2289, a bill that would essentially rewrite our current North Dakota high school academic and CTE scholarship programs and align it with our state's Choice Ready Framework, a state plan to assist educators to ensure all students successfully depart high school possessing the essential skills necessary to be ready for post-secondary, the workforce, and/or the military. This tool was developed by educators in partnership with ND DPI following the passage of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and is used to measure school growth in high schools. If you are interested in learning more about the Choice Ready Framework, you can visit ND DPI's [website](#). For purposes of the discussion on this bill, I am including this Choice Ready Framework [ATTACHMENT A] so you can see its direct connection to both the language of and purpose for this bill.

To date, our state's academic and CTE scholarship programs have been effective incentives for students and their families to work hard, choose specific pathways or enroll in upper-level courses, and focus on high achievement in the areas of academics or CTE. For that reason, it makes great sense to align the financial incentives offered by our state to what we expect from our students in order to graduate.

But, Mr. Chairman, with the passage of ESSA at the federal level and the development of the Choice Ready Framework here at the state level, those expectations for high school graduates has changed. It makes great sense to align our state's high school scholarship program with our state's high school choice ready framework.

I will try to go over the changes this bill proposes in a way that's easier to understand than the sections and dates appear.

For starters, if this bill passes and is signed into law, it would not go into effect until Aug 1, 2021. That means this option – the North Dakota scholarship, aligned to the Choice Ready Framework – would not be available to any qualifying student until they graduate in May 2022 (2021-22 school year graduates). At that point, a student could qualify for the existing academic or CTE scholarship OR the new North Dakota scholarship should they meet those requirements.

On July 31, 2024 (graduating class of 2023-24), the academic and CTE scholarships would then sunset. The goal is, by the time the class of 2024-25 graduates, for the only remaining scholarship program to be this newly created North Dakota scholarship aligned to the Choice Ready Framework.

That is what Sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the bill address – the effective dates of this new scholarship program and the repeals of the academic and CTE scholarship programs. The reason for the various dates is to make sure we don't pull the rug out from any current students who have already begun to dedicate their efforts to receiving the academic or CTE scholarships in current law.

So, if you're like me and like to follow along and mark in your bill what is being proposed:

- Section 1 – Makes this newly proposed “North Dakota scholarship” effective for the graduating class of 2022.
- Section 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, and 11 – Sets and sunsets all the requirements and eligibility for the academic and CTE scholarships on July 31, 2024, effective starting with the class of 2025.
- Section 3 – We'll review in a minute.
- Section 4, 6, 8 – Adds in language for the newly proposed “North Dakota scholarship” to make it effective and students to be eligible.

The actual substance of the scholarship program, the creation of this North Dakota scholarship, is Section 3. If you go through the program, line by line, and compare it to that Choice Ready Framework, the language will look very familiar. That's exactly the point.

Let's do this, Mr. Chairman, to assure the committee of that overlap. If you'll go back to your bill:

- Lines 4-6 and 10-22: align to the “Essential Skills” in Choice Ready Framework
- Lines 7-9 and Lines 23-24: align to all 3 – Post-Secondary Ready, Workforce Ready, and Military Ready in the Choice Ready Framework – with the addition of the higher GPA to qualify for a scholarship
- Lines 25 through Line 6 on Page 3 (*or (a) of subsection 6*): align to a student who is considered “Post-Secondary Ready” in the Choice Ready Framework. That could be compared to what exists with our current academic scholarship requirements.
- Continuing on Page 3, Line 7 through Line 3 on Page 4 (*or (b) of subsection 6*): align to a student who is considered “Workforce Ready” in the Choice Ready Framework, similar to our existing CTE scholarship.
- And lastly, Page 4, Lines 4-12 (*or (c) of subsection 6*): creates a brand new opportunity for a student to qualify for a scholarship if that student excels at a higher level in the area of graduating “Military Ready.”
- Add extra bullet to emphasize that students must meet 2 of the 3 to get the scholarship (postsecondary, workforce, military)

If graduates hit the marks outlined in 2 of 3 of the paths of the Choice Ready Framework at the level of the *existing* requirements to earn an academic or CTE scholarship (GPA, test scores, etc.), they will qualify for the North Dakota scholarship. So, this isn't about increasing the threshold from earning the scholarship but rather aligning the incentive for a scholarship with our state's efforts to graduate our students with the essential skills and choice ready for the college, career, or the military.

The fiscal note on the bill provides an estimate of 85 new students potentially qualifying with the addition of this North Dakota scholarship should the bill pass.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the contents of the bill and the reasons for bringing it forward. I would be happy to answer questions, but it may be helpful to hear from Jim Upgren from the ND Department of Public Instruction beforehand.

Thank you for the time, and I would ask for your consideration of a “Do Pass” recommendation on SB 2289.



NORTH DAKOTA CHOICE READY

The North Dakota **CHOICE READY** framework is a tool to assist educators to ensure all students successfully depart high school possessing the **ESSENTIAL SKILLS** necessary to be ready for life. The journey begins by ensuring students leave having the **ESSENTIAL SKILLS** to be successful for whichever path they choose. Students shall then strive to be **POST-SECONDARY READY**, **WORKFORCE READY**, and/or **MILITARY READY**.



ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Earn a **North Dakota high school diploma**

Complete a **9-week Career Education Course/Individual Counseling** (15.1-21-18), **Financial Literacy** (15.1-21-21), and pass **ND Civics Test** (15.1-21-27) and **four or more** additional indicators:

- 25 hours of Community Service
- 95% Attendance (not counting school related absences)
- Career Exploration Experience
- Two or more years in organized Co-Curricular Activities
- Two or more years in organized Extra-Curricular Activities
- Successfully complete a Capstone Project
- Successfully complete an on-line learning course
- Demonstrate competency in 21st Century Skills

Students shall then complete **two or more** of the **CHOICE READY** components below.



POST-SECONDARY READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, and earn a **2.8 GPA or greater**, and complete one academic indicator set below:

ACT / SAT minimum or subsection scores:

ACT English—18	SAT Reading/Writing—480
ACT Reading—22	SAT Math—530
ACT Math—21	
ACT Science—23	

or

Two or more additional indicators:

- Advanced Placement Course (A, B or C) (1, 2, or 3)
- Dual Credit Course (English or Math) (A, B or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- Algebra II (A, B or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- Advanced Placement Exam (3+)
- International Baccalaureate Exam (4+)
- 3.0 GPA in core course requirement for NDUS admission
- CLEM/CREAM (Eng./Math) Course (70% or greater)



WORKFORCE READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, and complete two or more additional indicators:

- Complete three CTE courses or more (A, B, or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- Complete Career Ready Practices (3.0)
- Dual Credit Course (A, B or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- WorkKeys (Gold or Silver)
- Technical Assessment / Industry Credential
- Workplace Learning Experience (40 hrs.)
- Work-based Learning Experience (Perkins V) (40 hrs.)
- CLEM/CREAM (Eng./Math) Course (70% or greater)
- NDSA (Reading/Math) Level 3 or greater or (ACT for Accountability: English 19/Mathematics 22)



MILITARY READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, **ASVAB score of 31 or greater** (as determined by branch), or acceptance into the military. **Quality Citizenship** (No Expulsions/Suspensions), **Physically Fit** (Students who have successfully completed required PE courses (A, B, or C) or (1, 2, or 3))

Complete **two or more** additional indicators from the **Post-Secondary** or **Workforce** options.

Revised 08/11/2020

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2289
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

February 3, 2021

**By: Jim Upgren, Assistant Director, Office of School Approval and Opportunity
701-328-2244**

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Schaible and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Upgren, Assistant Director in the Office of School Approval and Opportunity with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here on behalf of the department to speak in support of SB 2289.

When the North Dakota Academic and CTE Scholarship program was established in 2009, the requirements of each scholarship were tied to the goal of students being college ready. While there have been minor revisions to the requirements over the years, the qualifications for the scholarship remain much as they were in 2009- a checklist of items related to preparation for college. Schools and students have planned class schedules and testing around meeting the scholarship requirements. A lot has changed in the past decade since 2009. We now understand that high schools must prepare students for a variety of paths and a variety of career choices they have in life. The proposed scholarship requirements in Section 3 of this bill are aligned to the requirements for a student to be considered “Choice Ready.”

Before I continue regarding the proposed requirements of the bill, I will briefly describe Choice Ready and how it works. Part of the North Dakota K-12 Strategic

Vision is for each student to graduate Choice Ready. In short, a Choice Ready student is one that is qualified to pursue the choice of more than one path after high school. I have included in my electronic testimony a copy of the Choice Ready chart for your reference. Students must meet 4 of the 8 Essential Skills at the top of the chart (in blue). At the bottom of the chart are the 3 Choice Ready components: Post-Secondary Ready (on the left side of the chart in green), Workforce Ready (in the middle of the chart in pink), and Military Ready (on the right said of the chart in orange). Students that meet the requirements of 2 of those 3 components are considered to be Choice Ready, preparing students for multiple options after graduating from high school.

The proposed North Dakota Scholarship requirements listed in Section 3 of the bill are aligned to the Choice Ready requirements. Because this is a scholarship program intended to incentivize and reward students who work hard, the proposed requirements go above the basic requirements for a student to be considered Choice Ready. Students who earn the scholarship will also be Choice Ready, meeting the goal North Dakota has set forth as its K-12 vision. This bill will ensure that, when schools are planning class schedules, testing, and other activities to help students qualify for the scholarship, they will also be working towards helping students to graduate Choice Ready. If preparing students for multiple careers and choices is what

we say we value and want schools and students to strive for, we should align it with the state scholarship to incentivize students to work towards it.

The proposed scholarship requirements in Section 3 of the bill are aligned to the requirements for a student to be Choice Ready, with six adjustments to allow for the same level of rigor in the current scholarship requirements. First, students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Second, to meet the post-secondary ready requirement, students must have an ACT score of 24 or higher, equivalent to what is currently required for the Academic Scholarship. Third, the proposed scholarship requirements remove the option of having CREAM/CLEM college remediation courses count in the post-secondary or workforce ready column. Fourth, to meet the workforce ready requirement, students must complete four credits of career and technical education courses with two of those credits in the same coordinated plan of study, equivalent to what is currently required for the CTE Scholarship. Fifth, to meet the workforce ready requirement, students must receive either a 24 on the ACT or scores of 5 or higher on each of the three WorkKeys assessments, equivalent to what is currently required for the CTE Scholarship. And finally, to meet the military ready requirement, a student must score 85 or higher on the ASVAB assessment, unless the student has completed basic training, in which case a score of 31 as required for Choice Ready would be sufficient. We believe that these modifications to the Choice Ready framework will ensure that there is still the same level of rigor required to earn

the scholarship, while at the same time ensuring that all scholarship recipients will also meet the goal of graduating Choice Ready.

If SB 2289 passes, the timeline for students earning the scholarship will be as follows: students graduating in 2021 will be evaluated for the scholarship using the current Academic/CTE Scholarship requirements; students graduating in 2022, 2023, or 2024 will have the option of using either the current requirements or the proposed new requirements in this bill, and starting with the graduating class of 2025, all students would be evaluated for the North Dakota Scholarship using the proposed scholarship requirements in Section 3 of this bill.

NDDPI fully supports SB 2289 as a way to align scholarship requirements that schools and students will plan for with the K-12 Strategic Vision of students graduating Choice Ready.

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



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- Successfully complete a Capstone Project
- Successfully complete an on-line learning course
- Demonstrate competency in 21st Century Skills

Students shall then complete **two or more** of the **CHOICE READY** components below.



POST-SECONDARY READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, and earn a **2.8 GPA or greater**, and complete one academic indicator set below:

ACT / SAT minimum or subsection scores:

ACT English—18	SAT Reading/Writing—480
ACT Reading—22	SAT Math—530
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Two or more additional indicators:

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- 3.0 GPA in core course requirement for NDUS admission
- CLEM/CREAM (Eng./Math) Course (70% or greater)



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Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, and complete two or more additional indicators:

- Complete three CTE courses or more (A, B, or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
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- Dual Credit Course (A, B or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
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- Technical Assessment / Industry Credential
- Workplace Learning Experience (40 hrs.)
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- CLEM/CREAM (Eng./Math) Course (70% or greater)
- NDSA (Reading/Math) Level 3 or greater or (ACT for Accountability: English 19/Mathematics 22)



MILITARY READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, **ASVAB score of 31 or greater** (as determined by branch), or acceptance into the military. **Quality Citizenship** (No Expulsions/Suspensions), **Physically Fit** (Students who have successfully completed required PE courses (A, B, or C) or (1, 2, or 3))

Complete **two or more** additional indicators from the **Post-Secondary** or **Workforce** options.

Revised 08/11/2020

1 Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021
2 To: North Dakota Senate Education Committee
3 From: Jeff Fastnacht, Asst. Superintendent
4 Re: Support for SB 2289

5 Good Morning Chairman Schaible, Vice-Chair Elkin and members of the committee. I am Jeff
6 Fastnacht, Asst. Superintendent at Mandan Public School. I am in support for SB 2289 today and ask that
7 the committee provide it a DO PASS recommendation.

8 For those of you that do not know me, I have the opportunity to be a member of the ESSA
9 Implementation Team for North Dakota. I have been an active member of this team of outstanding
10 educators and leaders since the spring of 2016. One of my passions, that I brought to the committee was
11 my desire to create a new accountability system that included elements of Redefining Ready. Redefining
12 Ready was, and is a national movement, supported by the American Association of School Administrators
13 to change how school accountability was measured. Redefining Ready was developed in response to the
14 one-test fits all philosophy so prevalent during NCLB. I had the privilege of working on a national level as
15 a member of the Redefining Ready Implementation Cohort in 2015-2016. It was our goal to guide states
16 to develop ESSA plans that incorporated all or part of the Redefining Ready program. North Dakota did
17 just that when we developed our ESSA plan.

18 North Dakota's Choice Ready was initially focused on a means of measuring the success of high
19 schools in our state within the ESSA accountability system. It did not take long to realize that in addition
20 to being a more accurate representation of our schools, that Choice Ready was also a valuable tool to
21 guide students on their desired post-secondary path. Choice Ready provides a guide for students as to
22 what matters in high school as they prepare for post-secondary, the world of work, the military, or maybe
23 even all three. Students are deemed Choice Ready when they successfully complete the Essential Skills
24 and two of the other subcategories mentioned previously. The North Dakota Choice Ready Framework
25 has developed into a system that informs students, and their families, about the aptitudes and skills that
26 help ensure their children will be successful in the future.

27 SB 2289 and the alignment of our state's scholarships to the Choice Ready framework reinforces the
28 benefits of Choice Ready and how academics and skills are what are desired for our children. Students
29 around our state, just as they are in Mandan High School, are being guided by school counselors,
30 administrators, and educators to strive to graduate Choice Ready. Graduating high school is wonderful.
31 However, graduating and being deemed Choice Ready affirms to our students and their families that they
32 have the skills to be successful in areas well outside of the academics. Connecting the state scholarship
33 to this process will further advance the importance of being Choice Ready to our children.

**Senate Education
SB2289**

#4974

February 3, 2021

Chairman Schaible and members of the committee, my name is Wayde Sick, State Director of the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am submitting testimony in support of SB2289.

Since the Department of Public Instruction submitted its Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plan, the state's schools have been striving to provide students a choice ready education, as outlined by the Choice Ready Framework. Choice Ready is really a measurement of what a school is offering and not necessarily what student see as important, even though the Choice Ready Framework has been vetted. The Choice Ready Framework not only encourages students to complete a number of essential skills, it helps them determine their own paths by graduating college, workforce and/or military ready. In order to make the Choice Ready Framework more relevant to students and begin to revolutionize education in North Dakota, it may be time to align the scholarship, which our students find very important, to the Choice Ready Framework. This alignment makes sense and drives all of us, government, educators, students, parents and employers to speak the same language and value what the state has determined as a credible measurement tool of student success.

Thank you and I will try to answer any questions you may have.

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2289
2/3/2021
2:32 PM

A BILL relating to the creation of a North Dakota scholarship; relating to references to the North Dakota scholarship, North Dakota academic scholarship, and North Dakota career and technical education scholarship; relating to the North Dakota academic and career and technical education scholarships; and to provide an effective date.

Chair Schaible called to order at 2:32 p.m.

Discussion Topics:

- Scholarships

Sen Elkin: I move a Do Pass and Rerefer to Approps.

Sen Lemm : I second

Roll Call Vote: 6 - YES 0 - NO 0 - AB

Motion Passed.

Sen Oban will carry the bill.

Senator	Attendance
Chairman Schaible	P
Senator Elkin	P
Senator Conley	P
Senator Lemm	P
Senator Oban	P
Senator Wobbema	P

Senator	Vote
Chairman Schaible	Y
Senator Elkin	Y
Senator Conley	Y
Senator Lemm	Y
Senator Oban	Y
Senator Wobbema	Y

Adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Lynn Wolf, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2289: Education Committee (Sen. Schaible, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2289 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

2021 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2289

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2289
2/10/2021
Senate Appropriations Committee

Relating to the North Dakota academic and career and technical education scholarships.
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Senator Holmberg opened the hearing at 9:01 a.m.

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

Discussion Topics:

- New North Dakota Scholarship
- Workforce Ready

Senator Erin Oban, District 35, introduced the bill and submitted testimony #6180.

Jim Upgren, Assistant Director of Office of School Approval and Opportunity, North Dakota Department of Public Instructions, testified in favor and submitted testimony #5865.

Brian Ritter, Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC, testified in favor and submitted testimony #5868.

Chairman Holmberg closed the hearing at 9:22 a.m.

Rose Laning, Committee Clerk



NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360

6180



Senator Erin Oban

District 35
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COMMITTEES:

Education
Political Subdivisions

SB 2289 – Creation of a North Dakota Scholarship February 10, 2021 | 9:00 am Senate Appropriations Committee

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, for the record, I'm Erin Oban, senator for Bismarck's District 35. I'm here to bring forward SB 2289 for the Committee's consideration after receiving unanimous approval from the Senate Education Committee.

Very briefly, if SB 2289 would become law, for the next few years, our state's high school graduates would have *three* different opportunities to qualify for a scholarship – the existing academic or CTE scholarships (through 2024), or the addition of a "North Dakota scholarship" program aligned to North Dakota's Choice Ready Framework, a state plan to assist educators to ensure all students successfully depart high school possessing the essential skills necessary to be ready for post-secondary, the workforce, and/or the military.

To date, our state's academic and CTE scholarship programs have been effective incentives for students to work hard, choose specific pathways or enroll in upper-level courses, and focus on high achievement in the areas of academics or CTE. For that reason, it makes great sense to align the financial incentives offered by our state to what we expect from our students when they graduate.

This isn't about increasing the threshold to earn a scholarship. With the North Dakota scholarship, if graduates hit the marks outlined in 2 of 3 of the paths of the Choice Ready Framework with the GPA and test scores of the *existing* requirements to earn an academic or CTE scholarship, they will qualify for the North Dakota scholarship.

On July 31, 2024, the bill sunsets our academic and CTE scholarships and leaves only this North Dakota scholarship. The reason the bill has a fiscal note is because of those effective dates and the few years of overlap when all three options are available, qualifying an estimated 85 additional students. This transition period is an effort to ensure we don't pull the rug out from any current students who have already started working toward earning the academic or CTE scholarships in current law.

For reference:

- Section 1 – Makes the "North Dakota scholarship" effective in time for the graduating class of 2022.
- Section 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, and 11 – Sets and sunsets all the requirements and eligibility for the academic and CTE scholarships on July 31, 2024, effective starting with the graduating class of 2025.
- Section 4, 6, 8 – Makes effective and sets eligibility for the "North Dakota scholarship".

Mr. Chairman, I recognize the position you're all in in making strategic choices with the dollars we have available. And there may come a point when we need to review if the thresholds we've set for qualifying for scholarships are the right ones. However, at the very least, our financial incentives should align to our expectations, and that's what SB 2289 would do.

I respectfully request the Committee's positive recommendation and would stand for questions.

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2289
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

February 10, 2021

**By: Jim Upgren, Assistant Director, Office of School Approval and Opportunity
701-328-2244**

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Upgren, Assistant Director in the Office of School Approval and Opportunity with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here on behalf of the department to speak in support of SB 2289.

When the North Dakota Academic and CTE Scholarship program was established in 2009, the requirements of each scholarship were tied to the goal of students being college ready. While there have been minor revisions to the requirements over the years, the qualifications for the scholarship remain much as they were in 2009- a checklist of items related to preparation for college. Schools and students have planned class schedules and testing around meeting the scholarship requirements. A lot has changed in the past decade since 2009. We now understand that high schools must prepare students for a variety of paths and a variety of career choices they have in life. The proposed scholarship requirements in Section 3 of this bill are aligned to the requirements for a student to be considered “Choice Ready.”

Before I continue regarding the proposed requirements of the bill, I will briefly describe Choice Ready and how it works. Part of the North Dakota K-12 Strategic

Vision is for each student to graduate Choice Ready. In short, a Choice Ready student is one that is qualified to pursue the choice of more than one path after high school. I have included in my electronic testimony a copy of the Choice Ready chart for your reference. Students must meet 4 of the 8 Essential Skills at the top of the chart (in blue). At the bottom of the chart are the 3 Choice Ready components: Post-Secondary Ready (on the left side of the chart in green), Workforce Ready (in the middle of the chart in pink), and Military Ready (on the right side of the chart in orange). Students that meet the requirements of 2 of those 3 components are considered to be Choice Ready, preparing students for multiple options after graduating from high school.

The proposed North Dakota Scholarship requirements listed in Section 3 of the bill are aligned to the Choice Ready requirements. Because this is a scholarship program intended to incentivize and reward students who work hard, the proposed requirements go above the basic requirements for a student to be considered Choice Ready. Students who earn the scholarship will also be Choice Ready, meeting the goal North Dakota has set forth as its K-12 vision. This bill will ensure that, when schools are planning class schedules, testing, and other activities to help students qualify for the scholarship, they will also be working towards helping students to graduate Choice Ready. If preparing students for multiple careers and choices is what

we say we value and want schools and students to strive for, we should align it with the state scholarship to incentivize students to work towards it.

The proposed scholarship requirements in Section 3 of the bill are aligned to the requirements for a student to be Choice Ready, with six adjustments to allow for the same level of rigor in the current scholarship requirements. First, students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Second, to meet the post-secondary ready requirement, students must have an ACT score of 24 or higher, equivalent to what is currently required for the Academic Scholarship. Third, the proposed scholarship requirements remove the option of having CREAM/CLEM college remediation courses count in the post-secondary or workforce ready column. Fourth, to meet the workforce ready requirement, students must complete four credits of career and technical education courses with two of those credits in the same coordinated plan of study, equivalent to what is currently required for the CTE Scholarship. Fifth, to meet the workforce ready requirement, students must receive either a 24 on the ACT or scores of 5 or higher on each of the three WorkKeys assessments, equivalent to what is currently required for the CTE Scholarship. And finally, to meet the military ready requirement, a student must score 85 or higher on the ASVAB assessment, unless the student has completed basic training, in which case a score of 31 as required for Choice Ready would be sufficient. We believe that these modifications to the Choice Ready framework will ensure that there is still the same level of rigor required to earn

the scholarship, while at the same time ensuring that all scholarship recipients will also meet the goal of graduating Choice Ready.

If SB 2289 passes, the timeline for students earning the scholarship will be as follows: students graduating in 2021 will be evaluated for the scholarship using the current Academic/CTE Scholarship requirements; students graduating in 2022, 2023, or 2024 will have the option of using either the current requirements or the proposed new requirements in this bill, and starting with the graduating class of 2025, all students would be evaluated for the North Dakota Scholarship using the proposed scholarship requirements in Section 3 of this bill.

NDDPI fully supports SB 2289 as a way to align scholarship requirements that schools and students will plan for with the K-12 Strategic Vision of students graduating Choice Ready.

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



NORTH DAKOTA CHOICE READY

The North Dakota **CHOICE READY** framework is a tool to assist educators to ensure all students successfully depart high school possessing the **ESSENTIAL SKILLS** necessary to be ready for life. The journey begins by ensuring students leave having the **ESSENTIAL SKILLS** to be successful for whichever path they choose. Students shall then strive to be **POST-SECONDARY READY**, **WORKFORCE READY**, and/or **MILITARY READY**.



ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Earn a **North Dakota high school diploma**

Complete a **9-week Career Education Course/Individual Counseling** (15.1-21-18), **Financial Literacy** (15.1-21-21), and pass **ND Civics Test** (15.1-21-27) and **four or more** additional indicators:

- 25 hours of Community Service
- 95% Attendance (not counting school related absences)
- Career Exploration Experience
- Two or more years in organized Co-Curricular Activities
- Two or more years in organized Extra-Curricular Activities
- Successfully complete a Capstone Project
- Successfully complete an on-line learning course
- Demonstrate competency in 21st Century Skills

Students shall then complete **two or more** of the **CHOICE READY** components below.



POST-SECONDARY READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, and earn a **2.8 GPA or greater**, and complete one academic indicator set below:

ACT / SAT minimum or subsection scores:

ACT English—18	SAT Reading/Writing—480
ACT Reading—22	SAT Math—530
ACT Math—21	
ACT Science—23	

or

Two or more additional indicators:

- Advanced Placement Course (A, B or C) (1, 2, or 3)
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- Algebra II (A, B or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- Advanced Placement Exam (3+)
- International Baccalaureate Exam (4+)
- 3.0 GPA in core course requirement for NDUS admission
- CLEM/CREAM (Eng./Math) Course (70% or greater)



WORKFORCE READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, and complete two or more additional indicators:

- Complete three CTE courses or more (A, B, or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- Complete Career Ready Practices (3.0)
- Dual Credit Course (A, B or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- WorkKeys (Gold or Silver)
- Technical Assessment / Industry Credential
- Workplace Learning Experience (40 hrs.)
- Work-based Learning Experience (Perkins V) (40 hrs.)
- CLEM/CREAM (Eng./Math) Course (70% or greater)
- NDSA (Reading/Math) Level 3 or greater or (ACT for Accountability: English 19/Mathematics 22)



MILITARY READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, **ASVAB score of 31 or greater** (as determined by branch), or acceptance into the military. **Quality Citizenship** (No Expulsions/Suspensions), **Physically Fit** (Students who have successfully completed required PE courses (A, B, or C) or (1, 2, or 3))

Complete **two or more** additional indicators from the **Post-Secondary** or **Workforce** options.

Revised 08/11/2020



Senate Appropriations Committee – SB 2289

Senator Ray Holmberg, Chair

February 10, 2021

Chairman Holmberg, Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Ritter and I'm President of the Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC. On behalf of our organization's approximately 1,200 members, we support SB 2289.

The single greatest challenge facing Bismarck-Mandan's economy and our members is workforce. This is illustrated by the fact that there are currently more than 2,400 open jobs across our community. Furthermore, those job openings aren't just in one industry, they're in a number of different industries including: healthcare, construction & extraction, transportation & material moving, management and more. In short, they're in 'white collar' and 'blue collar' fields alike which is where North Dakota Choice Ready enters.

The North Dakota Choice Ready framework is a tool to assist educators to ensure all students successfully depart high school possessing the essential skills necessary to be ready for life, whether they're pursuing a post-secondary education, entering the workforce or joining the military. SB 2289 and the alignment of our state's scholarships to the Choice Ready framework reinforces the benefits of Choice Ready and how both academics and life skills are what's desired for our State's students.

For these reasons, we support SB 2289 and respectfully ask for a DO PASS recommendation. Thank you for your consideration.

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2289
2/17/2021
Senate Appropriations Committee

Relating to the North Dakota academic and career and technical education scholarships.
--

Senator Holmberg opened the committee work at 8:49 a.m.

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

Senator Poolman moved DO PASS on SB 2289.
Senator Davison second.

Senators		Senators	
<i>Senator Holmberg</i>	Y	<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>	Y	<i>Senator Sorvaag</i>	Y
<i>Senator Dever</i>	Y	<i>Senator Heckaman</i>	Y
<i>Senator Erbele</i>	Y	<i>Senator Mathern</i>	Y

Roll Call Vote – 14-0-0. Motion carried.

Senator Oban (Education) will carry the bill.

Senator Holmberg closed the committee work at 10:18 a.m.

Rose Laning, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2289: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS**
(14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2289 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2021 HOUSE EDUCATION

SB 2289

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2289
3/16/2021

Relating to creation of ND scholarship; relating to references to ND scholarship; ND academic scholarship; and ND career and technical education scholarships; relating to ND academic and career and technical education scholarships; and to provide an effective date

9:35 AM

Chairman Owens opened the hearing at 9:35 AM. Roll call: present: Reps. Owens, Schreiber-Beck, Heinert, Hoverson, D. Johnson, M. Johnson, Longmuir, Marschall, Pyle, Richter, Zubke, Guggisberg, Hager and Hauck.

Discussion Topics:

- Choice Ready Framework bill alignment
- Choice Ready scholarship requirements
- Budget clarification

Testimony:

#9477 Sen Oban, District 35, Bismarck
#8972 Jim Upgren, assistant director, Office of School Approval and Opportunity, ND DPI
#9329 Brian Ritter, President, Bismarck Chamber EDC
#9504 Wayde Sick, Dir., Dept. of Career and Technical Education
Brenda Zastoupil, ND University System oral testimony

Additional written testimony:

#9136 Kim Schneider

9:53 AM.Chairman Owens closed the hearing.

Bev Monroe, Committee Clerk



NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Senator Erin Oban

District 35
1005 North First Street
Bismarck, ND 58501-3519

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COMMITTEES:

Education
Political Subdivisions

SB 2289 – Creation of a North Dakota Scholarship

March 16, 2021 | 9:30 am

House Education Committee, Rep. Owens, Chair

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, for the record, I'm Erin Oban, senator for Bismarck's District 35. I'm here to introduce, discuss, and answer questions on SB 2289, a bill that would essentially rewrite our current North Dakota high school academic and CTE scholarship programs and align it with our state's Choice Ready Framework, a state plan to assist educators to ensure all students successfully depart high school possessing the essential skills necessary to be ready for post-secondary, the workforce, and/or the military. This tool was developed by educators in partnership with ND DPI following the passage of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and is used to measure school growth in high schools. If you are interested in learning more about the Choice Ready Framework, you can visit ND DPI's [website](#). For purposes of the discussion on this bill, I am including this Choice Ready Framework [ATTACHMENT A] so you can see its direct connection to both the language of and purpose for this bill.

To date, our state's academic and CTE scholarship programs have been effective incentives for students and their families to work hard, choose specific pathways or enroll in upper-level courses, and focus on high achievement in the areas of academics or CTE. For that reason, it makes great sense to align the financial incentives offered by our state to what we expect from our students in order to graduate.

But, Mr. Chairman, with the passage of ESSA at the federal level and the development of the Choice Ready Framework here at the state level, those expectations for high school graduates has changed. It makes great sense to align our state's high school scholarship program with our state's high school choice ready framework.

I will try to go over the changes this bill proposes in a way that's easier to understand than the sections and dates appear.

For starters, if this bill passes and is signed into law, it would not go into effect until Aug 1, 2021. That means this option – the North Dakota scholarship, aligned to the Choice Ready Framework – would not be available to any qualifying student until they graduate in May 2022 (2021-22 school year graduates). At that point, a student could qualify for the existing academic or CTE scholarship OR the new North Dakota scholarship should they meet those requirements.

On July 31, 2024 (graduating class of 2023-24), the academic and CTE scholarships would then sunset. The goal is, by the time the class of 2024-25 graduates, for the only remaining scholarship program to be this newly created North Dakota scholarship aligned to the Choice Ready Framework.

That is what Sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the bill address – the effective dates of this new scholarship program and the repeals of the academic and CTE scholarship programs. The reason for the various dates is to make sure we don't pull the rug out from any current students who have already begun to dedicate their efforts to receiving the academic or CTE scholarships in current law.

So, if you're like me and like to follow along and mark in your bill what is being proposed:

- Section 1 – Makes this newly proposed “North Dakota scholarship” effective for the graduating class of 2022.
- Section 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, and 11 – Sets and sunsets all the requirements and eligibility for the academic and CTE scholarships on July 31, 2024, effective starting with the class of 2025.
- Section 3 – We'll review in a minute.
- Section 4, 6, 8 – Adds in language for the newly proposed “North Dakota scholarship” to make it effective and students to be eligible.

The actual substance of the scholarship program, the creation of this North Dakota scholarship, is Section 3. If you go through the program, line by line, and compare it to that Choice Ready Framework, the language will look very familiar. That's exactly the point.

Let's do this, Mr. Chairman, to assure the committee of that overlap. If you'll go back to your bill:

- Lines 4-6 and 10-22: align to the “Essential Skills” in Choice Ready Framework
- Lines 7-9 and Lines 23-24: align to all 3 – Post-Secondary Ready, Workforce Ready, and Military Ready in the Choice Ready Framework – with the addition of the higher GPA to qualify for a scholarship
- Lines 25 through Line 6 on Page 3 (*or (a) of subsection 6*): align to a student who is considered “Post-Secondary Ready” in the Choice Ready Framework. That could be compared to what exists with our current academic scholarship requirements.
- Continuing on Page 3, Line 7 through Line 3 on Page 4 (*or (b) of subsection 6*): align to a student who is considered “Workforce Ready” in the Choice Ready Framework, similar to our existing CTE scholarship.
- And lastly, Page 4, Lines 4-12 (*or (c) of subsection 6*): creates a brand new opportunity for a student to qualify for a scholarship if that student excels at a higher level in the area of graduating “Military Ready.”
- Add extra bullet to emphasize that students must meet 2 of the 3 to get the scholarship (postsecondary, workforce, military)

If graduates hit the marks outlined in 2 of 3 of the paths of the Choice Ready Framework at the level of the *existing* requirements to earn an academic or CTE scholarship (GPA, test scores, etc.), they will qualify for the North Dakota scholarship. So, this isn't about increasing the threshold from earning the scholarship but rather aligning the incentive for a scholarship with our state's efforts to graduate our students with the essential skills and choice ready for the college, career, or the military.

The fiscal note on the bill provides an estimate of 85 new students potentially qualifying with the addition of this North Dakota scholarship should the bill pass.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the contents of the bill and the reasons for bringing it forward. I would be happy to answer questions, but it may be helpful to hear from Jim Upgren from the ND Department of Public Instruction beforehand.

Thank you for the time, and I would ask for your consideration of a “Do Pass” recommendation on SB 2289.



NORTH DAKOTA CHOICE READY

The North Dakota **CHOICE READY** framework is a tool to assist educators to ensure all students successfully depart high school possessing the **ESSENTIAL SKILLS** necessary to be ready for life. The journey begins by ensuring students leave having the **ESSENTIAL SKILLS** to be successful for whichever path they choose. Students shall then strive to be **POST-SECONDARY READY**, **WORKFORCE READY**, and/or **MILITARY READY**.



ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Earn a **North Dakota high school diploma**

Complete a **9-week Career Education Course/Individual Counseling** (15.1-21-18), **Financial Literacy** (15.1-21-21), and pass **ND Civics Test** (15.1-21-27) and **four or more** additional indicators:

- 25 hours of Community Service
- 95% Attendance (not counting school related absences)
- Career Exploration Experience
- Two or more years in organized Co-Curricular Activities
- Two or more years in organized Extra-Curricular Activities
- Successfully complete a Capstone Project
- Successfully complete an on-line learning course
- Demonstrate competency in 21st Century Skills

Students shall then complete **two or more** of the **CHOICE READY** components below.



POST-SECONDARY READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, and earn a **2.8 GPA or greater**, and complete one academic indicator set below:

ACT / SAT minimum or subsection scores:

ACT English—18	SAT Reading/Writing—480
ACT Reading—22	SAT Math—530
ACT Math—21	
ACT Science—23	

or

Two or more additional indicators:

- Advanced Placement Course (A, B or C) (1, 2, or 3)
- Dual Credit Course (English or Math) (A, B or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- Algebra II (A, B or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- Advanced Placement Exam (3+)
- International Baccalaureate Exam (4+)
- 3.0 GPA in core course requirement for NDUS admission
- CLEM/CREAM (Eng./Math) Course (70% or greater)



WORKFORCE READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, and complete two or more additional indicators:

- Complete three CTE courses or more (A, B, or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- Complete Career Ready Practices (3.0)
- Dual Credit Course (A, B or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
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- Workplace Learning Experience (40 hrs.)
- Work-based Learning Experience (Perkins V) (40 hrs.)
- CLEM/CREAM (Eng./Math) Course (70% or greater)
- NDSA (Reading/Math) Level 3 or greater or (ACT for Accountability: English 19/Mathematics 22)



MILITARY READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, **ASVAB score of 31 or greater** (as determined by branch), or acceptance into the military. **Quality Citizenship** (No Expulsions/Suspensions), **Physically Fit** (Students who have successfully completed required PE courses (A, B, or C) or (1, 2, or 3))

Complete **two or more** additional indicators from the **Post-Secondary** or **Workforce** options.

Revised 08/11/2020

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2289
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

March 16, 2021

**By: Jim Upgren, Assistant Director, Office of School Approval and Opportunity
701-328-2244**

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Upgren, Assistant Director in the Office of School Approval and Opportunity with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here on behalf of the department to speak in support of SB 2289.

When the North Dakota Academic and CTE Scholarship program was established in 2009, the requirements of each scholarship were tied to the goal of students being college ready. While there have been minor revisions to the requirements over the years, the qualifications for the scholarship remain much as they were in 2009- a checklist of items related to preparation for college. Schools and students have planned class schedules and testing around meeting the scholarship requirements. A lot has changed in the past decade since 2009. We now understand that high schools must prepare students for a variety of paths and a variety of career choices they have in life. The proposed scholarship requirements in Section 3 of this bill are aligned to the requirements for a student to be considered “Choice Ready.”

Before I continue regarding the proposed requirements of the bill, I will briefly describe Choice Ready and how it works. Part of the North Dakota K-12 Strategic

Vision is for each student to graduate Choice Ready. In short, a Choice Ready student is one that is qualified to pursue the choice of more than one path after high school. I have included in my electronic testimony a copy of the Choice Ready chart for your reference. Students must meet 4 of the 8 Essential Skills at the top of the chart (in blue). At the bottom of the chart are the 3 Choice Ready components: Post-Secondary Ready (on the left side of the chart in green), Workforce Ready (in the middle of the chart in pink), and Military Ready (on the right side of the chart in orange). Students that meet the requirements of 2 of those 3 components are considered to be Choice Ready, preparing students for multiple options after graduating from high school.

The proposed North Dakota Scholarship requirements listed in Section 3 of the bill are aligned to the Choice Ready requirements. Because this is a scholarship program intended to incentivize and reward students who work hard, the proposed requirements go above the basic requirements for a student to be considered Choice Ready. Students who earn the scholarship will also be Choice Ready, meeting the goal North Dakota has set forth as its K-12 vision. This bill will ensure that, when schools are planning class schedules, testing, and other activities to help students qualify for the scholarship, they will also be working towards helping students to graduate Choice Ready. If preparing students for multiple careers and choices is what

we say we value and want schools and students to strive for, we should align it with the state scholarship to incentivize students to work towards it.

The proposed scholarship requirements in Section 3 of the bill are aligned to the requirements for a student to be Choice Ready, with six adjustments to allow for the same level of rigor in the current scholarship requirements. First, students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Second, to meet the post-secondary ready requirement, students must have an ACT score of 24 or higher, equivalent to what is currently required for the Academic Scholarship. Third, the proposed scholarship requirements remove the option of having CREAM/CLEM college remediation courses count in the post-secondary or workforce ready column. Fourth, to meet the workforce ready requirement, students must complete four credits of career and technical education courses with two of those credits in the same coordinated plan of study, equivalent to what is currently required for the CTE Scholarship. Fifth, to meet the workforce ready requirement, students must receive either a 24 on the ACT or scores of 5 or higher on each of the three WorkKeys assessments, equivalent to what is currently required for the CTE Scholarship. And finally, to meet the military ready requirement, a student must score 85 or higher on the ASVAB assessment, unless the student has completed basic training, in which case a score of 31 as required for Choice Ready would be sufficient. We believe that these modifications to the Choice Ready framework will ensure that there is still the same level of rigor required to earn

the scholarship, while at the same time ensuring that all scholarship recipients will also meet the goal of graduating Choice Ready.

If SB 2289 passes, the timeline for students earning the scholarship will be as follows: students graduating in 2021 will be evaluated for the scholarship using the current Academic/CTE Scholarship requirements; students graduating in 2022, 2023, or 2024 will have the option of using either the current requirements or the proposed new requirements in this bill, and starting with the graduating class of 2025, all students would be evaluated for the North Dakota Scholarship using the proposed scholarship requirements in Section 3 of this bill.

NDDPI fully supports SB 2289 as a way to align scholarship requirements that schools and students will plan for with the K-12 Strategic Vision of students graduating Choice Ready. We support SB 2289, and we also stand willing to assist committee members in drafting any amendments that may further strengthen the bill.

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



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MILITARY READY

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Complete **two or more** additional indicators from the **Post-Secondary** or **Workforce** options.

Revised 08/11/2020



House Education Committee – SB 2289

Representative Mark Owens, Chair

March 16, 2021

Chairman Owens, Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Ritter and I'm President of the Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC. On behalf of our organization's approximately 1,200 members, we support SB 2289.

The single greatest challenge facing Bismarck-Mandan's economy and our members is workforce. This is illustrated by the fact that there are currently more than 2,700 open jobs across our community. Furthermore, those job openings aren't just in one industry, they're in a number of different industries including: healthcare, construction & extraction, transportation & material moving, management and more. In short, they're in 'white collar' and 'blue collar' fields alike which is where North Dakota Choice Ready enters.

The North Dakota Choice Ready framework is a tool to assist educators to ensure all students successfully depart high school possessing the essential skills necessary to be ready for life, whether they're pursuing a post-secondary education, entering the workforce or joining the military. SB 2289 and the alignment of our state's scholarships to the Choice Ready framework reinforces the benefits of Choice Ready and how both academics and life skills are what's desired for our State's students.

For these reasons, we support SB 2289 and respectfully ask for a DO PASS recommendation. Thank you for your consideration.

**House Education
SB2289**

March 16, 2021

Chairman Owens and members of the committee, my name is Wayde Sick, State Director of the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am submitting testimony in support of SB2289.

Since the Department of Public Instruction submitted its Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plan, the state's schools have been striving to provide students a choice ready education, as outlined by the Choice Ready Framework. Choice Ready is really a measurement of what a school is offering and not necessarily what student see as important, even though the Choice Ready Framework has been vetted. The Choice Ready Framework not only encourages students to complete a number of essential skills, it helps them determine their own paths by graduating high school college, workforce and/or military ready. In order to make the Choice Ready Framework more relevant to students and begin to revolutionize education in North Dakota, it may be time to align the scholarship, which our students find very important, to the Choice Ready Framework. This alignment makes sense and drives all of us, government, educators, students, parents and employers to speak the same language and value what the state has determined as a credible measurement tool of student success.

Thank you and I will try to answer any questions you may have.

**2021 OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

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Sara Frank, Communications &
Government Affairs Director

House Education Committee
North Dakota House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

March 15, 2021

Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. My name is Kim Schneider and I represent the North Dakota Association of Builders. Our home building industry is proud to support a growing North Dakota and we are fueled by the talents of workers including electricians, plumbers, masons, carpenters, and the many trades that make up the construction industry. Career and technical education is critical not only to our industry, but also provides a career path for our citizens that includes job security and high wages. Despite this, almost every one of our members struggles with attracting and retaining a skilled workforce.

SB 2289 supports our future workforce with the North Dakota Choice Ready framework which assists the great educators across the state to help ensure all students are ready for their post high school life carrying forth real life, essential skills. These skills will help them as they choose to enter post-secondary school, enter the workforce, or join the military.

On behalf of the North Dakota Association of Builders and our 2,000 members across the state, we urge a Do Pass recommendation on SB 2289.

We appreciate the support and continued partnership,

Kim Schneider
Chief Executive Officer
North Dakota Association of Builders

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2289
3/22/2021

Relating to creation of ND scholarship; relating to references to ND scholarship; ND academic scholarship; and ND career and technical education scholarships; relating to ND academic and career and technical education scholarships; and to provide an effective date

Chairman Owens opened the meeting for committee work at 3:05 PM. Roll call: Reps. Owens, Schreiber-Beck, Hauck, Heinert, Hoverson, D. Johnson, M. Johnson, Longmuir, Marschall, Pyle, Richter, Zubke, Guggisberg and Hager present.

Discussion Topics:

- Amendment #21.0633.02001
- SB 2141 SAT reference

Rep. Pyle presented amendment 21.0633.02001, #9805, #9804

Jim Uppgren, DPI, question clarification

Rep. Pyle moved amendment 21.0633.02001, seconded by **Rep. Zubke**.

Voice Vote Motion carried

Rep. Zubke moved a **Do Pass as Amended** and **Rereferred to Appropriations**, seconded by **Rep. Guggisberg**.

Roll call vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Mark S. Owens	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Ron Guggisberg	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	N
Representative Dennis Johnson	Y
Representative Mary Johnson	Y
Representative Donald Longmuir	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Brandy Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Denton Zubke	Y

Motion carried 13-1-0 Rep. Guggisberg is carrier

Chairman Owens closed the hearing at 3:17 PM.

Bev Monroe, Committee Clerk

Dr 3/22/21
1081

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2289

Page 2, line 9, after "scale" insert ", or an equivalent course proficiency score if the student was enrolled in a school district participating in an approved innovative education program under section 15.1-06-08.2 and the school district obtained a waiver under section 15.1-06-08.1"

Page 2, line 29, after "course" insert ", or an equivalent course proficiency score"

Page 2, line 30, after "course" insert ", or an equivalent course proficiency score"

Page 2, line 31, after "II" insert ", or an equivalent course proficiency score"

Page 3, line 5, after "scale" insert ", or an equivalent course proficiency score if the student was enrolled in a school district participating in an approved innovative education program under section 15.1-06-08.2 and the school district obtained a waiver under section 15.1-06-08.1,"

Page 3, line 20, after "course" insert ", or an equivalent course proficiency score"

Page 4, line 9, after "course" insert ", or an equivalent course proficiency score"

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2289: Education Committee (Rep. Owens, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (13 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2289 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 2, line 9, after "scale" insert ". or an equivalent course proficiency score if the student was enrolled in a school district participating in an approved innovative education program under section 15.1-06-08.2 and the school district obtained a waiver under section 15.1-06-08.1"

Page 2, line 29, after "course" insert ". or an equivalent course proficiency score"

Page 2, line 30, after "course" insert ". or an equivalent course proficiency score"

Page 2, line 31, after "II" insert ". or an equivalent course proficiency score"

Page 3, line 5, after "scale" insert ". or an equivalent course proficiency score if the student was enrolled in a school district participating in an approved innovative education program under section 15.1-06-08.2 and the school district obtained a waiver under section 15.1-06-08.1."

Page 3, line 20, after "course" insert ". or an equivalent course proficiency score"

Page 4, line 9, after "course" insert ". or an equivalent course proficiency score"

Renumber accordingly

21.0633.02001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Representative Pyle
March 16, 2021

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2289

Page 2, line 9, after "scale" insert ", or an equivalent course proficiency score if the student was enrolled in a school district participating in an approved innovative education program under section 15.1-06-08.2 and the school district obtained a waiver under section 15.1-06-08.1"

Page 2, line 29, after "course" insert ", or an equivalent course proficiency score"

Page 2, line 30, after "course" insert ", or an equivalent course proficiency score"

Page 2, line 31, after "II" insert ", or an equivalent course proficiency score"

Page 3, line 5, after "scale" insert ", or an equivalent course proficiency score if the student was enrolled in a school district participating in an approved innovative education program under section 15.1-06-08.2 and the school district obtained a waiver under section 15.1-06-08.1."

Page 3, line 20, after "course" insert ", or an equivalent course proficiency score"

Page 4, line 9, after "course" insert ", or an equivalent course proficiency score"

Renumber accordingly

21.0633.02001

Sixty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2289

Introduced by

Senators Oban, Poolman, Schaible

Representatives Mock, Pyle, Sanford

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the creation of a North Dakota scholarship; to amend and reenact
3 sections 15-10-59, 15.1-21-02.6, 15.1-21-02.8, and 15.1-21-02.9 of the North Dakota Century
4 Code, relating to references to the North Dakota scholarship, North Dakota academic
5 scholarship, and North Dakota career and technical education scholarship; to repeal sections
6 15.1-21-02.4 and 15.1-21-02.5 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the North Dakota
7 academic and career and technical education scholarships; and to provide an effective date.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-59 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 15-10-59. Annual report - Scholarships.

12 The state board of higher education shall provide to the legislative management an annual
13 report regarding the number of North Dakota scholarships, North Dakota academic
14 scholarships, and North Dakota career and technical education scholarships provided and
15 demographic information pertaining to the recipients.

16 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-59 of the North Dakota Century Code is
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 15-10-59. Annual report - Scholarships.

19 The state board of higher education shall provide to the legislative management an annual
20 report regarding the number of North Dakota scholarships, ~~North Dakota academic~~
21 ~~scholarships~~, and ~~North Dakota career and technical education scholarships~~ provided and
22 demographic information pertaining to the recipients.

23 **SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
24 and enacted as follows:

1 **North Dakota scholarship.**

2 Any resident student who meets the requirements of section 15.1-21-02.6 is eligible to
3 receive a North Dakota scholarship if the student:

4 1. Completed an individual consultative process or a nine-week course under
5 subsection 2 of section 15.1-21-18;

6 2. Completed the civics test under section 15.1-21-27;

7 3. Completed a four-year rolling plan, as determined by the superintendent of public
8 instruction;

9 4. Obtained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale, or
10 an equivalent course proficiency score if the student was enrolled in a school district
11 participating in an approved innovative education program under section 15.1-06-08.2
12 and the school district obtained a waiver under section 15.1-06-08.1;

13 5. Completed the requirements in at least four of the following while enrolled in grades
14 nine through twelve:

15 a. Twenty-five hours of community service;

16 b. A ninety-five percent attendance rate as determined under section 15.1-20-02.1,
17 not including any school-related absences;

18 c. A career exploration experience, as determined by the superintendent of public
19 instruction;

20 d. At least two years in organized cocurricular activities;

21 e. At least two years in organized extracurricular activities;

22 f. A capstone project, as determined by the superintendent of public instruction;

23 g. An online learning course; and

24 h. Successful demonstration of competency in twenty-first century skills, as
25 determined by the superintendent of public instruction; and

26 6. Completed the requirements in two of the following subdivisions while enrolled in
27 grades nine through twelve:

28 a. (1) Received:

29 (a) A composite score of at least twenty-four on an ACT; or

30 (b) A score of at least 1180 on an SAT; and

31 (2) Completed the requirements in at least two of the following:

- (a) A grade of at least "C" in an advanced placement course, or an equivalent course proficiency score;
- (b) A grade of at least "C" in a dual-credit English or mathematics course, or an equivalent course proficiency score;
- (c) A grade of at least "C" in one unit of algebra II, or an equivalent course proficiency score;
- (d) A score of at least three on an advanced placement examination;
- (e) A score of at least four on an international baccalaureate examination;
and
- (f) A cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale, or an equivalent course proficiency score if the student was enrolled in a school district participating in an approved innovative education program under section 15.1-06-08.2 and the school district obtained a waiver under section 15.1-06-08.1, in core courses required for admission to institutions of higher education under the control of the state board of higher education;
- b. (1) Earned four units of career and technical education, including two units from a coordinated plan of study recommended by the department of career and technical education and approved by the superintendent of public instruction;
- (2) Received:
- (a) A composite score of at least twenty-four on an ACT; or
- (b) A score of at least five on each of three WorkKeys assessments recommended by the department of career and technical education and approved by the superintendent of public instruction; and
- (3) Successfully completed the requirements in at least two of the following:
- (a) A career-ready practices course developed and recommended by the department of career and technical education and approved by the superintendent of public instruction;
- (b) A grade of at least "C" in a dual-credit course, or an equivalent course proficiency score;

- (c) A technical assessment or industry credential, as determined by the department of career and technical education;
- (d) Forty hours in a workplace learning experience, approved by the superintendent of public instruction;
- (e) Forty hours in a work-based learning experience aligned to the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act [Pub. L. 115-224; 132 Stat. 1563; 20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.]; and
- (f) Received:
- [1] A score of at least three on a reading and mathematics assessment administered under subsection 1 of section 15.1-21-08 while enrolled in grades nine through twelve; or
- [2] ACT scores of at least nineteen in English and at least twenty-two in mathematics if the school in which the student was enrolled used an ACT assessment for accountability; or
- c. (1) Received:
- (a) A score of at least thirty-one on an ASVAB test and successfully completed basic training in one of the branches of the United States military; or
- (b) A score of at least eighty-five on an ASVAB test;
- (2) Obtained a grade of at least "C" in a physical education course, or an equivalent course proficiency score; and
- (3) Completed any two of subparagraphs a through f of paragraph 2 of subdivision a, or any two of subparagraphs a through f of paragraph 3 of subdivision b.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-21-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-21-02.6. North Dakota scholarship - Amount - Applicability.

1. a. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction either a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars for

each semester during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward degree completion.

b. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction either a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars for each quarter during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward degree completion.

2. The state board shall monitor each scholarship recipient to ensure that the student meets the academic and other requirements of this section. Upon determining that a recipient student has failed to meet the requirements of this section, the board shall provide notification to the student within ten days.

3. A student is not entitled to receive more than six thousand dollars under this section.

4. The state board of higher education shall forward the scholarship directly to the institution in which the student is enrolled.

5. a. (1) This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive semesters.

(2) This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive quarters.

b. A scholarship under this section is valid only for six academic years after the student's graduation from high school and may be applied to a graduate program.

6. A scholarship under this section is available to any eligible resident student who fulfills the requirements of section 15.1-21-02.4, or section 15.1-21-02.5, or section 2 of this Act and who:

a. Graduates from a high school in this state;

b. Graduates from a high school in a bordering state under chapter 15.1-29;

c. Graduates from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing with a custodial parent in this state; or

- 1 d. Completes a program of home education supervised in accordance with chapter
- 2 15.1-23.
- 3 7. a. For purposes of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "full-time"
- 4 has the same meaning as the term is defined by the institution the student is
- 5 attending.
- 6 b. A student who is enrolled less than full-time may retain scholarship eligibility if the
- 7 student is in the final semester or quarter before graduation. The waiver of the
- 8 full-time enrollment status requirement for scholarship eligibility may not apply to
- 9 a student more than once.
- 10 c. For the purpose of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section,
- 11 "progress toward degree completion" means earning the following minimum
- 12 number of credits after each semester or quarter term disbursement to qualify for
- 13 the subsequent disbursement:
- 14 (1) Twenty-four credits after disbursement two;
- 15 (2) Thirty-nine credits after disbursement three;
- 16 (3) Fifty-four credits after disbursement four;
- 17 (4) Sixty-nine credits after disbursement five;
- 18 (5) Eighty-four credits after disbursement six; and
- 19 (6) Ninety-nine credits after disbursement seven.

20 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is
21 amended and reenacted as follows:

22 **15.1-21-02.6. North Dakota scholarship - Amount - Applicability.**

- 23 1. a. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as
- 24 being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota
- 25 scholarship, ~~a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and-~~
- 26 ~~technical education scholarship~~ in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars for
- 27 each semester during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited
- 28 institution of higher education in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point
- 29 average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward degree completion.
- 30 b. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as
- 31 being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota

scholarship, ~~a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship~~ in the amount of five hundred dollars for each quarter during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward degree completion.

2. The state board shall monitor each scholarship recipient to ensure the student meets the academic and other requirements of this section. Upon determining that a recipient student has failed to meet the requirements of this section, the board shall provide notification to the student within ten days.

3. A student is not entitled to receive more than six thousand dollars under this section.

4. The state board of higher education shall forward the scholarship directly to the institution in which the student is enrolled.

5. a. (1) This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive semesters.

(2) This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive quarters.

b. A scholarship under this section is valid only for six academic years after the student's graduation from high school and may be applied to a graduate program.

6. A scholarship under this section is available to any eligible resident student who fulfills the requirements of ~~section 15.1-21-02.4, section 15.1-21-02.5, or section 2~~ of this Act and who:

a. Graduates from a high school in this state;

b. Graduates from a high school in a bordering state under chapter 15.1-29;

c. Graduates from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing with a custodial parent in this state; or

d. Completes a program of home education supervised in accordance with chapter 15.1-23.

7. a. For purposes of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "full-time" has the same meaning as the term is defined by the institution the student is attending.

b. A student who is enrolled less than full-time may retain scholarship eligibility if the student is in the final semester or quarter before graduation. The waiver of the full-time enrollment status requirement for scholarship eligibility may not apply to a student more than once.

c. For the purpose of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "progress toward degree completion" means earning the following minimum number of credits after each semester or quarter term disbursement to qualify for the subsequent disbursement:

- (1) Twenty-four credits after disbursement two;
- (2) Thirty-nine credits after disbursement three;
- (3) Fifty-four credits after disbursement four;
- (4) Sixty-nine credits after disbursement five;
- (5) Eighty-four credits after disbursement six; and
- (6) Ninety-nine credits after disbursement seven.

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-21-02.8 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-21-02.8. North Dakota scholarship - Eligibility - One-time exception.

1. a. Notwithstanding section 15.1-21-02.6, if a student's cumulative grade point average as determined by the state board of higher education at the conclusion of a semester is below 2.75, the board shall grant an exception and provide the North Dakota scholarship to which the student would otherwise be entitled for the next semester in which the student is enrolled full time. The exception provided by this section is applicable to a student only one time.
- b. If a student's cumulative grade point average as determined by the state board of higher education at the conclusion of a semester is below 2.75 for a second time, the student is no longer eligible to receive ~~any additional~~ a North Dakota, North Dakota academic, or North Dakota career and technical education ~~scholarship~~ scholarship.
2. a. Notwithstanding section 15.1-21-02.6, if a student's cumulative grade point average as determined by the state board of higher education at the conclusion of a quarter is below 2.75, the board shall grant an exception and provide the

North Dakota scholarship to which the student would otherwise be entitled for the next quarter in which the student is enrolled full time. The exception provided by this section is applicable to a student only one time.

- b. If a student's cumulative grade point average as determined by the state board of higher education at the conclusion of a quarter is below 2.75 for a second time, the student is no longer eligible to receive ~~any additional a~~ North Dakota, North Dakota academic, or North Dakota career and technical education scholarship~~sscholarship~~.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-21-02.8 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-21-02.8. North Dakota scholarship - Eligibility - One-time exception.

1. a. Notwithstanding section 15.1-21-02.6, if a student's cumulative grade point average as determined by the state board of higher education at the conclusion of a semester is below 2.75, the board shall grant an exception and provide the North Dakota scholarship to which the student would otherwise be entitled for the next semester in which the student is enrolled full time. The exception provided by this section is applicable to a student only one time.
- b. If a student's cumulative grade point average as determined by the state board of higher education at the conclusion of a semester is below 2.75 for a second time, the student is no longer eligible to receive a North Dakota,~~North Dakota~~ ~~academic, or North Dakota career and technical education~~ scholarship.
2. a. Notwithstanding section 15.1-21-02.6, if a student's cumulative grade point average as determined by the state board of higher education at the conclusion of a quarter is below 2.75, the board shall grant an exception and provide the North Dakota scholarship to which the student would otherwise be entitled for the next quarter in which the student is enrolled full time. The exception provided by this section is applicable to a student only one time.
- b. If a student's cumulative grade point average as determined by the state board of higher education at the conclusion of a quarter is below 2.75 for a second time, the student is no longer eligible to receive a North Dakota,~~North Dakota~~ ~~academic, or North Dakota career and technical education~~ scholarship.

1 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.9 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **15.1-21-02.9. North Dakota scholarship - Information system.**

4 Each school district shall use North Dakota eTranscripts, or an alternative information
5 system designated by the information technology department in collaboration with the
6 department of public instruction, to submit official transcripts for the North Dakota, North Dakota
7 academic, or North Dakota career and technical education scholarship to the superintendent of
8 public instruction.

9 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.9 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **15.1-21-02.9. North Dakota scholarship - Information system.**

12 Each school district shall use North Dakota eTranscripts, or an alternative information
13 system designated by the information technology department in collaboration with the
14 department of public instruction, to submit official transcripts for the North Dakota, ~~North Dakota~~
15 ~~academic, or North Dakota career and technical education~~ scholarship to the superintendent of
16 public instruction.

17 **SECTION 10. REPEAL.** Sections 15.1-21-02.4 and 15.1-21-02.5 of the North Dakota
18 Century Code are repealed.

19 **SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Sections 2, 5, 7, 9, and 10 of this Act become effective
20 on July 31, 2024.

2021 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2289

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Prairie Room, State Capitol

SB 2289
3/29/2021

House Appropriations Committee - Education and Environment

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the creation of a North Dakota scholarship; to amend and reenact sections 15-10-59, 15.1-21-02.6, 15.1-21-02.8, and 15.1-21-02.9 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to references to the North Dakota scholarship, North Dakota academic scholarship, and North Dakota career and technical education scholarship; to repeal sections 15.1-21-02.4 and 15.1-21-02.5 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the North Dakota academic and career and technical education scholarships; and to provide an effective date.

Chairman David Monson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Representative	Present	Absent
Chairman Monson	P	
Vice Chairman Schmidt	P	
Representative Martinson	P	
Representative Nathe	P	
Representative Sanford	P	
Representative Schatz	P	
Representative Boe		A

Discussion Topics:

- CTE Scholarship
- Choice Ready

Representative Owens (10:02 a.m.) introduced the bill.

Senator Oban (10:08 a.m.) explained the bill. Testimony #10872

Tammy Dolan (10:16 a.m.) testified in favor.

Jim Upgren (10:17 a.m.) testified in favor. Testimony #10846

Representative Mark Sanford moved Do Pass

Representative Bob Martinson Seconded

Roll Call vote taken:

Representative	Yea	Nay	Absent
Chairman Monson	X		
Vice Chairman Schmidt	X		
Representative Martinson	X		
Representative Nathe			X
Representative Sanford	X		
Representative Schatz		X	
Representative Boe			X

Motion Carried: 4-1-2

Chairman David Monson adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Klarissa Pudwill, Committee Clerk



NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Senator Erin Oban

District 35
1005 North First Street
Bismarck, ND 58501-3519

R: 701-955-3188
C: 701-527-1642

eoban@nd.gov

COMMITTEES:

Education
Political Subdivisions

SB 2289 – Creation of a North Dakota Scholarship

March 29, 2021 | 10:00 am

House Appropriations Committee

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, for the record, I'm Erin Oban, senator for Bismarck's District 35, here to bring forward SB 2289 for the Committee's consideration.

To be as brief but informational as I'm able, if SB 2289 would become law, for the next few years, our state's high school graduates would have *three* different opportunities to qualify for a scholarship – the existing academic scholarship, the CTE scholarship, or the addition of a "North Dakota scholarship" program as proposed in this bill. The new language is specifically aligned to North Dakota's Choice Ready Framework [see Attachment A], a state plan developed by our state's educators after federal ESSA passage to assist educators in ensuring all students successfully depart high school possessing the knowledge and skills necessary to be ready for post-secondary, the workforce, and/or the military.

To date, our state's academic and CTE scholarship programs have been effective incentives for students to work hard, choose specific pathways or enroll in upper-level courses, and focus on high achievement in the areas of academics or CTE. But since the creation of those scholarship programs, Mr. Chairman, our expectations for our high schoolers have changed in order to graduate choice-ready. For that reason, it makes great sense for us to re-align the financial incentives we offer in the form of scholarships to what we expect from our students when they graduate.

With the new language proposing this North Dakota scholarship, if graduates meet the requirements in 2 of 3 of the paths of the Choice Ready Framework at the *existing* GPA and test scores required to earn an academic or CTE scholarship, they will qualify for the North Dakota scholarship. This isn't about increasing the threshold to earn a scholarship. This is about aligning incentives with expectations.

On July 31, 2024, the bill will sunset our current academic and CTE scholarships and leave only this new North Dakota scholarship. This transition period is an effort to ensure we don't pull the rug out from any current students who have already started working toward earning the academic or CTE scholarships in current law.

Mr. Chairman, I recognize the position we're all in in making strategic choices with the dollars we have available. I also know we've seen a number and variety of scholarship-related bills this session. There may come a point when we need to review if the thresholds we've set for qualifying for scholarships are the right ones, but, at the very least, our scholarships should align to our expectations, and that's what SB 2289 would do. I respectfully request the Committee's positive recommendation and would stand for questions.



NORTH DAKOTA CHOICE READY

The North Dakota **CHOICE READY** framework is a tool to assist educators to ensure all students successfully depart high school possessing the **ESSENTIAL SKILLS** necessary to be ready for life. The journey begins by ensuring students leave having the **ESSENTIAL SKILLS** to be successful for whichever path they choose. Students shall then strive to be **POST-SECONDARY READY**, **WORKFORCE READY**, and/or **MILITARY READY**.



ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Earn a **North Dakota high school diploma**

Complete a **9-week Career Education Course/Individual Counseling** (15.1-21-18), **Financial Literacy** (15.1-21-21), and pass **ND Civics Test** (15.1-21-27) and **four or more** additional indicators:

- 25 hours of Community Service
- 95% Attendance (not counting school related absences)
- Career Exploration Experience
- Two or more years in organized Co-Curricular Activities
- Two or more years in organized Extra-Curricular Activities
- Successfully complete a Capstone Project
- Successfully complete an on-line learning course
- Demonstrate competency in 21st Century Skills

Students shall then complete **two or more** of the **CHOICE READY** components below.



POST-SECONDARY READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, and earn a **2.8 GPA or greater**, and complete one academic indicator set below:

ACT / SAT minimum or subsection scores:

ACT English—18	SAT Reading/Writing—480
ACT Reading—22	SAT Math—530
ACT Math—21	
ACT Science—23	

or

Two or more additional indicators:

- Advanced Placement Course (A, B or C) (1, 2, or 3)
- Dual Credit Course (English or Math) (A, B or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- Algebra II (A, B or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- Advanced Placement Exam (3+)
- International Baccalaureate Exam (4+)
- 3.0 GPA in core course requirement for NDUS admission
- CLEM/CREAM (Eng./Math) Course (70% or greater)



WORKFORCE READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, and complete two or more additional indicators:

- Complete three CTE courses or more (A, B, or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- Complete Career Ready Practices (3.0)
- Dual Credit Course (A, B or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- WorkKeys (Gold or Silver)
- Technical Assessment / Industry Credential
- Workplace Learning Experience (40 hrs.)
- Work-based Learning Experience (Perkins V) (40 hrs.)
- CLEM/CREAM (Eng./Math) Course (70% or greater)
NDSA (Reading/Math) Level 3 or greater or (ACT for Accountability: English 19/Mathematics 22)



MILITARY READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, **ASVAB score of 31 or greater** (as determined by branch), or acceptance into the military.
Quality Citizenship (No Expulsions/Suspensions),
Physically Fit (Students who have successfully completed required PE courses (A, B, or C) or (1, 2, or 3))

Complete **two or more** additional indicators from the **Post-Secondary** or **Workforce** options.

Revised 08/11/2020

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2289
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION**

March 29, 2021

**By: Jim Upgren, Assistant Director, Office of School Approval and Opportunity
701-328-2244
North Dakota Department of Public Instruction**

Chairman Monson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Upgren, Assistant Director in the Office of School Approval and Opportunity with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here on behalf of the department to speak in support of SB 2289.

When the North Dakota Academic and CTE Scholarship program was established in 2009, the requirements of each scholarship were tied to the goal of students being college ready. While there have been minor revisions to the requirements over the years, the qualifications for the scholarship remain much as they were in 2009- a checklist of items related to preparation for college. Schools and students have planned class schedules and testing around meeting the scholarship requirements. A lot has changed in the past decade since 2009. We now understand that high schools must prepare students for a variety of paths and a variety of career choices they have in life. The proposed scholarship requirements in Section 3 of this bill are aligned to the requirements for a student to be considered “Choice Ready.”

Before I continue regarding the proposed requirements of the bill, I will briefly describe Choice Ready and how it works. Part of the North Dakota K-12 Strategic Vision is for each student to graduate Choice Ready. In short, a Choice Ready student is one that is qualified to pursue the choice of more than one path after high school. I have included in my electronic testimony a copy of the Choice Ready chart for your reference. Students must meet 4 of the 8 Essential Skills at the top of the chart (in blue). At the bottom of the chart are the 3 Choice Ready components: Post-Secondary Ready (on the left side of the chart in green), Workforce Ready (in the middle of the chart in pink), and Military Ready (on the right side of the chart in orange). Students that meet the requirements of 2 of those 3 components are considered to be Choice Ready, preparing students for multiple options after graduating from high school.

The proposed North Dakota Scholarship requirements listed in Section 3 of the bill are aligned to the Choice Ready requirements. Because this is a scholarship program intended to incentivize and reward students who work hard, the proposed requirements go above the basic requirements for a student to be considered Choice Ready. Students who earn the scholarship will also be Choice Ready, meeting the goal North Dakota has set forth as its K-12 vision. This bill will ensure that, when schools are planning class schedules, testing, and other activities to help students qualify for the scholarship, they will also be working towards helping students to

graduate Choice Ready. If preparing students for multiple careers and choices is what we say we value and want schools and students to strive for, we should align it with the state scholarship to incentivize students to work towards it.

The proposed scholarship requirements in Section 3 of the bill are aligned to the requirements for a student to be Choice Ready, with six adjustments to allow for the same level of rigor in the current scholarship requirements. First, students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Second, to meet the post-secondary ready requirement, students must have an ACT score of 24 or higher, equivalent to what is currently required for the Academic Scholarship. Third, the proposed scholarship requirements remove the option of having CREAM/CLEM college remediation courses count in the post-secondary or workforce ready column. Fourth, to meet the workforce ready requirement, students must complete four credits of career and technical education courses with two of those credits in the same coordinated plan of study, equivalent to what is currently required for the CTE Scholarship. Fifth, to meet the workforce ready requirement, students must receive either a 24 on the ACT or scores of 5 or higher on each of the three WorkKeys assessments, equivalent to what is currently required for the CTE Scholarship. And finally, to meet the military ready requirement, a student must score 85 or higher on the ASVAB assessment, unless the student has completed basic training, in which case a score of 31 as required for Choice Ready would be sufficient. We believe that these modifications to the Choice

Ready framework will ensure that there is still the same level of rigor required to earn the scholarship, while at the same time ensuring that all scholarship recipients will also meet the goal of graduating Choice Ready.

If SB 2289 passes, the timeline for students earning the scholarship will be as follows: students graduating in 2021 will be evaluated for the scholarship using the current Academic/CTE Scholarship requirements; students graduating in 2022, 2023, or 2024 will have the option of using either the current requirements or the proposed new requirements in this bill, and starting with the graduating class of 2025, all students would be evaluated for the North Dakota Scholarship using the proposed scholarship requirements in Section 3 of this bill.

NDDPI fully supports SB 2289 as a way to align scholarship requirements that schools and students will plan for with the K-12 Strategic Vision of students graduating Choice Ready. We support SB 2289, and we also stand willing to assist committee members in drafting any amendments that may further strengthen the bill.

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



NORTH DAKOTA CHOICE READY

The North Dakota **CHOICE READY** framework is a tool to assist educators to ensure all students successfully depart high school possessing the **ESSENTIAL SKILLS** necessary to be ready for life. The journey begins by ensuring students leave having the **ESSENTIAL SKILLS** to be successful for whichever path they choose. Students shall then strive to be **POST-SECONDARY READY**, **WORKFORCE READY**, and/or **MILITARY READY**.



ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Earn a **North Dakota high school diploma**

Complete a **9-week Career Education Course/Individual Counseling** (15.1-21-18), **Financial Literacy** (15.1-21-21), and pass **ND Civics Test** (15.1-21-27) and **four or more** additional indicators:

- 25 hours of Community Service
- 95% Attendance (not counting school related absences)
- Career Exploration Experience
- Two or more years in organized Co-Curricular Activities
- Two or more years in organized Extra-Curricular Activities
- Successfully complete a Capstone Project
- Successfully complete an on-line learning course
- Demonstrate competency in 21st Century Skills

Students shall then complete **two or more** of the **CHOICE READY** components below.



POST-SECONDARY READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, and earn a **2.8 GPA or greater**, and complete one academic indicator set below:

ACT / SAT minimum or subsection scores:

ACT English—18	SAT Reading/Writing—480
ACT Reading—22	SAT Math—530
ACT Math—21	
ACT Science—23	

or

Two or more additional indicators:

- Advanced Placement Course (A, B or C) (1, 2, or 3)
- Dual Credit Course (English or Math) (A, B or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- Algebra II (A, B or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- Advanced Placement Exam (3+)
- International Baccalaureate Exam (4+)
- 3.0 GPA in core course requirement for NDUS admission
- CLEM/CREAM (Eng./Math) Course (70% or greater)



WORKFORCE READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, and complete two or more additional indicators:

- Complete three CTE courses or more (A, B, or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- Complete Career Ready Practices (3.0)
- Dual Credit Course (A, B or C) or (1, 2, or 3)
- WorkKeys (Gold or Silver)
- Technical Assessment / Industry Credential
- Workplace Learning Experience (40 hrs.)
- Work-based Learning Experience (Perkins V) (40 hrs.)
- CLEM/CREAM (Eng./Math) Course (70% or greater)
- NDSA (Reading/Math) Level 3 or greater or (ACT for Accountability: English 19/Mathematics 22)



MILITARY READY

Complete a **Four-Year Rolling Career Plan**, **ASVAB score of 31 or greater** (as determined by branch), or acceptance into the military. **Quality Citizenship** (No Expulsions/Suspensions), **Physically Fit** (Students who have successfully completed required PE courses (A, B, or C) or (1, 2, or 3))

Complete **two or more** additional indicators from the **Post-Secondary** or **Workforce** options.

Revised 08/11/2020

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2289
4/1/2021

Relating to references to the North Dakota scholarship, North Dakota academic scholarship,

4:03 Chairman Delzer- Opened the meeting for SB 2289

Attendance	P/A
Representative Jeff Delzer	P
Representative Keith Kempenich	P
Representative Bert Anderson	P
Representative Larry Bellew	P
Representative Tracy Boe	P
Representative Mike Brandenburg	P
Representative Michael Howe	P
Representative Gary Kreidt	P
Representative Bob Martinson	P
Representative Lisa Meier	P
Representative Alisa Mitskog	P
Representative Corey Mock	P
Representative David Monson	P
Representative Mike Nathe	P
Representative Jon O. Nelson	P
Representative Mark Sanford	P
Representative Mike Schatz	P
Representative Jim Schmidt	P
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	P
Representative Michelle Strinden	P
Representative Don Vigesaa	P

Discussion Topics:

- Academic and the CTE Scholarship Consolidation
- Military Readiness Category
- ASVAB Test
- Students ND Scholarships eligibilty

4:03 Representative Monson Explains the bill and its purpose

4:10 Representative Monson – Makes a motion for a Do Pass

Representative Sanford Second

Further discussion

4:12 Roll Call Vote was Taken;

Representatives	Vote
Representative Jeff Delzer	N
Representative Keith Kempenich	A
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	N
Representative Tracy Boe	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Michael Howe	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	A
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	N
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	N
Representative Jim Schmidt	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Don Vigesaa	A

Motion Carries 15-4-2 Representative Guggisberg will carry the bill

Additional written testimony: No Additional Testimony

4:13 Chairman Delzer- Closes the meeting for 2289

Risa Berube,

House Appropriations Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2289, as amended: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (15 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2289, as amended, was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.