



NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

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COMMITTEES:

Education
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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 NDIUS 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.