

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2257
Appropriations COMMITTEE**

1/27/2021

By: Becky Eberhardt, 21st CCLC Program Administrator

701-328-2295

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Committee:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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