



**SB 2136 – Relating to scholarship eligibility requirements and amounts for students -
NDCEL Testimony in Support**

January 12, 2021

Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee – My name is Dr. Russ Ziegler, and I am the assistant director for the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders. I am testifying today in support of SB 2136.

As a former principal, and more importantly a former mathematics teacher, I support the inclusion of Integrated Math II and III for this scholarship in place of Algebra II. The Integrated Math curriculum is at or above the Algebra II curriculum standards. What makes Integrated Math II and III so good is that the students will be solving real world problems which gives the standards relevance for the students. This increased relevance will increase the students' interest in mathematics, and they will realize how and why math is utilized in their future careers.

This year has taught the education community many things – such as the pros and cons to on-line learning, that students and teachers will rise to the challenges that are placed in front of them, and that often change is required and if done right it does not have to be feared. I believe that education has grown leaps and bounds because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. One of these areas is that students can learn outside of the classroom in a brick and mortar school. For graduation requirements they may not be a set course for students to follow. There are other courses that are more engaging and interesting to some students than others. In other words, there are multiple ways for a student to gain what is needed to be college and career ready. This world has never been and will never be a one size fits all container. This bill allows for students to travel different paths and still receive the acknowledgement that they so deserve.

NDCEL encourages you to have a do pass on this bill.

Thank you for your time.