

North Dakota's rural communities, served by public schools, will receive absolutely no benefit from this bill as there are no private or parochial nonpublic schools located in 36 of North Dakota's 53 counties. This bill takes resources from the state's 490 public schools in every community across the state to support private choices. These public dollars could be used in so many other ways, but most importantly, they could help to benefit our public schools, as well as our most valued resource our students.

Additionally, HB 1532 requires no accountability for these expenditures on the part of the private schools who will receive them. In contrast, public schools, governed by locally elected school boards and open meetings laws, must account for every dime they receive from the taxpayers of North Dakota.

Finally, nonpublic schools that will benefit from HB 1532 are not required to follow many federal and state requirements and the bill specifically prohibits requiring nonpublic schools to alter their admissions policy. They are free to deny admission to any student for any reason, including cognitive ability, physical disability, as well as behavioral and social limitations. Public schools, on the other hand, proudly educate all comers, regardless of their limitations and abilities. It is not unreasonable to believe that if private, nonpublic schools receive state funding, then they should have to follow the same state and federal requirements as North Dakota's public schools. Public schools accept all students and provide services to all students. This may require public schools to purchase new equipment to help provide these services or purchase more items to provide the best education possible for ALL students.

Our public school students deserve to get the best possible education. They deserve to get services that come from the public funds that many of their parents as taxpayers are paying for.

**OPPOSE HB 1532 for our PUBLIC school students!!!**