



SB 2213 – Science of Mathematics – Testimony in support

I appreciate the opportunity to discuss Senate Bill No. 2213, which aims to enhance mathematics instruction across our state. While we support the bill's objectives, we have one recommendation to consider for the record.

Proposed Recommendation:

We suggest that districts demonstrating effective mathematics instruction and achieving student performance above the state average be exempted from additional mandated professional development. This exemption would recognize and reward districts that have already established successful mathematics programs.

Rationale:

1. **Recognition of Excellence:** Districts with proven success in mathematics instruction should be acknowledged for their effective practices. Mandating additional professional development in these cases may not be necessary and could divert resources from other areas in need.
2. **Resource Allocation:** Allowing exemptions would enable high-performing districts to allocate time and resources to other pressing needs, thereby optimizing educational outcomes across various subjects.
3. **Local Autonomy:** Empowering districts to assess their professional development needs fosters innovation and responsiveness to unique community contexts.

Implementation:

We recommend establishing clear criteria for exemption eligibility, including:

- Consistently high student performance in mathematics assessments.
- Evidence of effective teaching practices and curriculum alignment.
- Ongoing internal professional development initiatives.

Districts meeting these criteria could qualify for an exemption through NDDPI.

Conclusion:

Senate Bill No. 2213 to include this recommendation, we can honor the achievements of high-performing districts while maintaining our commitment to statewide educational excellence. This approach balances the need for rigorous standards with recognizing local successes.