

April 2, 2025

Senator Ronald Sorvaag, Chairman
Members North Dakota Appropriations- Education and Environment Division

Subject: Request to add funding line item for low income open enrolled out-of-district at-risk students attending public schools in neighboring districts to their residential district

Honorable Members of the North Dakota State Senate Education Committee,

We are writing to urge your support for the addition of a funding line item in HB1369 to add a funding formula line item to provide financial assistance to educating districts where at least 40% of the total enrollment or two hundred or more students enrolled are low-income, open-enrolled, out-of-district, at-risk students attending from an adjacent neighboring residential school district.

Currently, school districts across North Dakota enroll out-of-district students through the open enrollment process, some are at-risk students who need additional support to succeed. While these students are welcomed into neighboring districts, the Title I funding generated by out of district students will now remain with their home district, not the district providing education. This creates a large gap in resources available to the educating districts, who are responsible for the academic success of these students.

Some of these students come from low-income households and require additional support; it is crucial that the district providing their education have adequate funding to meet their needs. Without such financial support, schools may be forced to divert resources from other programs, potentially diminishing the quality of education for all enrolled students.

By adding a line item in HB1369 to allocate funding for these students, we can ensure that such districts are properly equipped to serve all students, particularly those who are at-risk and in need of extra attention and resources. This additional funding will help bridge the gap, ensuring equitable opportunities for every student, regardless of their district of residence.

The proposed language addition is as follows:

- I. 0.30 times the average daily membership of at-risk open-enrolled students attending a public school, where at least 40% of the total enrollment or 200 or more students are open-enrolled at-risk students from an adjacent neighboring residential school district; these open-enrolled students must be certified as eligible for free meals under the Community Eligibility Provision at the educating school.

Thank you for considering this important issue. We respectfully urge you to support this amendment to HB1369 in order to provide the necessary resources for the educational success of all North Dakota students.



Dr. Keith LaVallie, Superintendent
St. John School District



Kent Dennis, Superintendent
Minnewaukan School District