



Dr. Terry Brenner
Superintendent of Schools

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January 22, 2025

Members of the Senate Appropriation Committee,

My name is Terry Brenner, and I am the Superintendent of Grand Forks Public School District #1 and Grand Forks Air Force Base School District #140.

Grand Forks Public School District and Grand Forks Air Force Base Public School District SUPPORTS SB 2149.

Grand Forks Public School District #1 has a unique relationship with the Grand Forks Air Force Base School District #140 through a Joint Powers Agreement to provide educational services to the students of the Grand Forks Air Force Base since the construction of the installation. Although the Grand Forks Public School District provides educational services, capital construction is the responsibility of the Grand Forks Air Force Base School District. The Grand Forks Air Force Base School District does not have the financial capacity to build without access to low-interest financing.

Our students are a part of families who live, work, and learn in communities across the world. When they come to Grand Forks Air Force Base, they encounter a 1961 building with deferred maintenance challenges (a story known to schools across our state). While other schools in the state have access to the school construction assistance revolving loan fund, which provides low-interest financing, the Grand Forks Air Force Base school does not. SB 2149 will extend the same low-financing support to our military families to modernize their schools.

This request is timely as the Grand Forks Air Force Base School District was recently invited to participate in a cost-sharing arrangement with the Department of Defense to replace the Twining Elementary and Middle School building. Under this arrangement, the federal government will cover 80% of the project's cost. The Grand Forks Air Force Base School District must consider financing the 20% match, and as a small school district, having access to the low-interest revolving loan fund will ensure a viable 30-year option to accommodate current and future missions.



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Equal opportunity employer

Grand Forks School District prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, or other status protected by law. The District also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups, as required by federal law.

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As the Grand Forks Air Force Base School District is poised for this opportunity, Minot Air Force Base School District is also approaching eligibility. While Grand Forks AFB is #70 on this list, Minot is #90 and may receive the same invite to the program in a few years. Including schools on military installations within this federal program ensures equity and support for all North Dakota students, including those in military families.

The Grand Forks Air Force Base is poised for significant growth, with new missions and opportunities on the horizon. A critical component of supporting this growth is ensuring robust educational facilities for the families stationed there. The replacement of the Twining Elementary and Middle School building will enhance the educational experience for these families and reflect North Dakota's commitment to serving military communities.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 2149. This legislation represents a sound investment in our military base and the families who serve there.

Thank you for your service to the state of North Dakota and thoughtful deliberation on this critical issue.

Please contact me for further discussion on how this bill directly benefits the Grand Forks and Grand Forks Air Force Base public school districts and communities.

Sincerely,

GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AND GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Brenner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terry Brenner
Superintendent of Schools

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