

TESTIMONY ON HB 1111
Senate Education Committee
February 16, 2021
by Ann Ellefson, Director of Academic Support
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Department of Public Instruction

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Ann Ellefson, Director of the Office of Academic Support of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI). I am here today representing NDDPI to provide supportive testimony for HB 1111, which provides for a legislative management study of innovative education practices and competency-based learning initiatives occurring throughout North Dakota.

During the 2017 legislative assembly, statute was established providing the state superintendent the authority to waive particular sections of the North Dakota Century Code when supported by a comprehensive, systemic plan from participating districts. I have enclosed a full list of districts operating under the Innovative Education Program flexibility as well as those who have submitted formal inquiries (Attachment A). These comprehensive plans required multi-year approaches and documented support from teachers, school staff, parents, and community members. This flexibility was so much more than a “waiver” from something; it was about deliberately planning, and systemically implementing a strategic plan for better

delivery of education with better outcomes for North Dakota students. The flexibility provided under this statute allows schools and districts to design and pursue alternate strategies and pathways to best meet the needs of their students.

The 66th Legislative Assembly adopted and embraced the ND's first ever, PK-12 Education Strategic Vision: All students will graduate Choice Ready with the knowledge, skills and disposition to be successful. HB 1111 is directly aligned with the Strategic Vision's Theme of supporting "Quality Student-Centered Instruction."

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, NDDPI stands ready to assist the Legislature with this study.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Attachment A



Last updated January 12, 2021

List of schools requesting Innovative Education Program

School	Date Submitted	Short Description	Response on Planning Proposal (PP)	Response on Implementation Plan (IP)	NDCC Waived
Bismarck – Career Academy	October 7, 2019	CBE in CTE	Approved October 2019	Approved April 2020	15.1-21 HS Grad 15.1-18 TQ 15.1-20 HS Time
Center for Distance Education	August 21, 2018	CBE in virtual classes	Approved September 2018	Approved December 2018	15.1-20 HS Time
Northern Cass	May 2017	Career <u>Exploration</u> (Jaguar Academy) PCBL w/ KW	Approved August 2017 Working with KnowledgeWorks	Approved July 2017	15.1-20 Instructional Calendar Time 15.1-18 TQ
Northern Cass	Spring 2018	PCBL	Approved-PCBL w/ KW	Approved-PCBL w/ KW	15.1-20 HS Time
Northern Cass	Spring 2019	1x a month shortened high school day, 5.5 hrs instead of 6 hrs		Approved April 2019	15.1-20 Time
Northern Cass	February 2020	State Scholarship		Approved March 2020	15.1-21 Scholarship
Oakes	Spring 2018	PCBL	Approved-PCBL w/ KW	Approved-PCBL w/ KW	15.1-20 HS Time
West Fargo	Spring 2018	PCBL	Approved-PCBL w/KW	Approved-PCBL w/ KW	N/A
West Fargo	Spring 2019	Hybrid Courses at Sheyenne HS		Approved April 2019	15.1-20 Time
New Rockford-Sheyenne	Spring 2018	PCBL	Approved-PCBL w/ KW	Approved-PCBL w/ KW	N/A
New Rockford-Sheyenne	Spring 2019	Flex-Mod Schedule			15.1-20 HS Time
YCC	Summer 2018	PCBL	Approved-PCBL w/ KW	Approved-PCBL w/ KW	15.1-20 HS Time
YCC	Spring 2019	4-day School Week		Approved April 2019	N/A

IP – Implementation Plan
PP – Planning Proposal
HS – High School

CBE – Competency-Based Education
PCBL – Personalized Competency-Based Learning
KW – KnowledgeWorks