



Ellendale Public School

321 N. 1st St, PO Box 400, Ellendale ND 58436

Ph. (701) 349-3232 - Fax (701) 349-3447

www.ellendale.k12.nd.us

Superintendent
Chip Sundberg

Business Manager
Lana Norton

H.S. Principal
Cindy Rall

Elem. Principal
Allison Radermacher

School Board: Pres. - Michele Thorpe, Vice Pres. - Kent Schimke, Director - Kristi Gilbert, Director - Cresta Miller, Director - Val Wagner

Re: Bill Number 1532

February 21, 2023

Honorable Mike Brandenburg
Honorable Jim Grueneich
Honorable Robert Erbele

Dear District 28 Legislators,

I am writing on behalf of myself as I have been unable to visit with my School Board about this particular bill. I think that they all would agree with me when I say that this is not a good bill for Ellendale Public School. The use of public money for school vouchers will erode funding toward public school education. Here is a list five things to think about when it comes to school vouchers.

1. Public dollars should be spent in public schools.
2. It is inappropriate to give public funds to private schools without any accountability measures.
3. Nothing in this bill prohibits private schools from increasing tuition rates while also receiving state funds.
4. Unlike public schools, private schools are allowed to turn away students they deem too difficult to serve, including students with disabilities.
5. Voucher programs do not equally benefit all North Dakotans. Only students in large cities with private schools will benefit. Rural students will not benefit from the vouchers and rural taxpayers will be subsidizing students and families in other communities.

I hope you agree that these reasons can significantly impact the education of rural North Dakota students, and impact schools in District 28.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me. The school contact information is in the letterhead. My cell phone number is (605) 695-6434. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours in Education,

Chip Sundberg, Superintendent
Ellendale Public School

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