

**2021 HOUSE EDUCATION**

**HB 1478**

# 2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1478  
2/2/2021

Relating to alternative education opportunities outside the classroom for course credit; to provide a legislative management report

**Chairman Owens** called the hearing to order at 9:00 AM. Roll call: Reps. Owens, Schreiber-Beck, Heinert, Hoverson, D. Johnson, M. Johnson, Longmuir, Marschall, Pyle, Richter, Simons, Zubke, Guggisberg and Hager present.

### Discussion Topics:

- Possible amendment for Line 12 to insert 'pre-apprenticeship'
- Possibility of schools having opportunity for implementation
- Job opportunities in construction trade with pre-apprenticeship

**Vice Chairman Cindy Schreiber-Beck** introduced HB 1478, #4741  
**Jason Ehlert**, ND State Buildings and Constructions Trades Council, #4834  
**Kent Ellis**, #4872  
**Ann Ellefson**, Director of Academic Support, NDDPI, #4526  
**Aimee Copas**, NDCEL, #4701

### Additional Written testimony:

#4757, #4753, #4754, #4675, #4568, #4565, #4555, #4514, #4359

**Chairman Owens** closed the hearing on HB 1478 at 9:25 AM.

*Bev Monroe, Committee Clerk*

**HOUSE BILL 1478** House Education Committee Hearing Tuesday February 2, 2021 9:0AM

Introduction/Support of HB1478 provided by Cindy Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative

Chairman Mark Owens and Committee Members:

House Bill 1478 would create a new section to chapter 15.1-07 which is titled School Districts. If passed, the overall result would be the opportunity for students, in grades six through twelve, to receive credit for alternative education opportunities outside of the classroom. Alternative education opportunities could range from participating in an extracurricular activity (theatre, strolling strings, athletics, etc.), holding a job, interning, holding an office in student council, or completing specific requirements of a club or organization (scouting, 4-H, etc.).

This is OPTIONAL for school districts, requires participation of all involved (i.e.: if student is receiving credit for holding a job – involvement of district, employer, teacher of record, student) and requires approval through the department of public instruction.

The proposed legislation would provide the initial waiver process for school districts who choose to permit students to receive credit for alternative education opportunities outside the classroom. The department of public instruction would adopt the rules to administer this section of code, review all district proposals with a defined review committee (includes legislators), allow or deny the proposal, monitor the proposal, revoke a proposal, and provide reports and information to legislative management.

Why this legislation:

- Aligns with the strategic vision of education which states: “Our vision is that all students will graduate choice ready with the knowledge, skills and disposition to be successful.”
- Aligns with Work Force Development Council career exploration (education).
- Provides the initial waiver for districts, yet is optional, includes criteria and provides oversight by DPI and the legislature (review committee members and legislative management).
- Provides for local control.
- Provides opportunities for students, encourages exploration by students, and may incentivize students since can receive credit.
- Encourages districts to be innovative.
- Could enhance social emotional learning (SEL).
- Includes grades six through twelve.
- Mirrors existing CTE program but does not replace nor interfere with the CTE Program.

This optional opportunity for districts would be beneficial for the students who choose to participate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an overview of this legislation.

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of House Bill 1478.



## NORTH DAKOTA STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

2901 Twin City Dr. Suite 201  
Mandan, North Dakota 58554  
(701) 663-8821

© GCU 250-C

February 2, 2021

To the Honorable Mark Owens and Member Representatives of the House Education Committee

RE: House Bill 1478; Alternative Education Opportunities Outside the Classroom for Course Credit

Representing workers in the commercial, industrial, and residential construction industries from foundation to finish, we are committed to promoting, recruiting, and developing careers in the skilled trades. This legislation would provide for additional experiences to students to promote careers in construction. As such, the North Dakota State Building and Construction Trades Council is in support of HB 1478.

Promoting promote careers in construction has become increasingly important as the needs for more skilled workers continues to be a challenge. As more of our members retire from the tools and an overall waning interest in the trades, we are exploring strategies to connect with students. We see the prospect to promote pre-apprenticeship programs as a precursor to registered apprenticeship programs as invaluable experience to encourage exploration in the skilled trades. Having certified educational opportunities outside the classroom that meet course content standards would be an effective means to fulfill innovative education strategies. With this bill, it would boost our existing strategies for promotion and recruitment of careers in construction and we respectfully urge a do pass recommendation for HB 1478.

With Kindest Regards, I am

Jason Ehlert  
President  
Lobbyist No. 347  
[Jason@ndbtu.org](mailto:Jason@ndbtu.org)



February 2, 2021

## I am testifying in full support of HB 1478

A prediction based on the implementation of HB 1478: Within five years, a longitudinal study will confirm an increase in degree and certification completions in apprenticeship programs and NDUS institutions. It will also acknowledge a reduction in dropout rates and non-completers in post-secondary education for the students participating in self-directed electives resulting from HB 1478. High school students active in Learn Everywhere programs will enjoy graduation rates similar to the unparalleled rates produced by Career and Technical Education course concentrators.

Student benefits for participation in self-directed independent study include:

- Unlimited career exploration opportunities and academic flexibility.
- A student athlete identifying their high school sport as a required PE credit allows the student to take additional electives offered at school.
- A student in work based learning may confirm their career aspirations and pursue formal post-secondary training.
- A student in work based learning may decide this is not the career path they want to pursue and would be able to examine alternatives before seeking post-secondary training.

As a vehicle for independent study credits, HB1478 is unequalled as the most cost effective method of increasing elective choices to school offerings without added investment for instruction, facilities or equipment.

It provides an avenue for increased interaction between our business communities, school districts and students.

HB 1478 satisfies some of the recommendations from the Work Force Development Council which include, but are not limited to:

- Increasing work based learning opportunities and collaborative business / labor associations.
- Implementing specific career exposure courses.
- Retain youth and recruit former residents.
- Enhance PK-12 career experience curriculum.

- Internships designed for small business, hands on, applied learning.

To date our nation's education industry is an institution whose function is the measuring of institutionally defined knowledge but not acknowledging or crediting observed competencies originating outside of the academic environment. As we increase the Carnegie Units required for graduation we simultaneously reduce the time available for elective classes.

The University of Minnesota Mankato offers a Master of Science degree in Experiential Education based on its observations of a candidate's experiential learning and competencies. HB 1478 accomplishes the same for regular education students in North Dakota.

Kent Ellis  
Bismarck, ND

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1478**  
**House Education Committee**  
**February 2, 2021**  
**by Ann Ellefson, Director of Academic Support**  
**(701) 328-2488**  
**Department of Public Instruction**

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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 1478, which provides alternative learning opportunities outside the classroom and allows for associated course credit.

During the 2017 legislative assembly, statute was established providing the state superintendent the authority to waive certain sections of the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) 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). On this chart, the final column documents the section(s) of NDCC where additional flexibility has been provided. To date, we have seen limited requires for the flexibility described in HB 1478; however, we believe the structures placed in this bill would provide for additional learning opportunities for students,

flexibility in how to provide those opportunities, and options for those not participating in the Innovative Education Programming flexibilities.

As you recall, the 66<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly adopted and embraced North Dakota's first ever, PK-12 Education Strategic Vision: All students will graduate Choice Ready with the knowledge, skills, and disposition to be successful (Attachment B). HB 1478 is directly aligned with the Strategic Vision's Themes of supporting "Quality Student-Centered Instruction" and "Career Awareness." We also believe this bill could serve as a catalyst of change in the traditional learning environment and engage students differently in their learning.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, NDDPI stands in support of this bill and is ready to assist the process for the students of North Dakota.

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

## Attachment A

### List of schools requesting Innovative Education Program

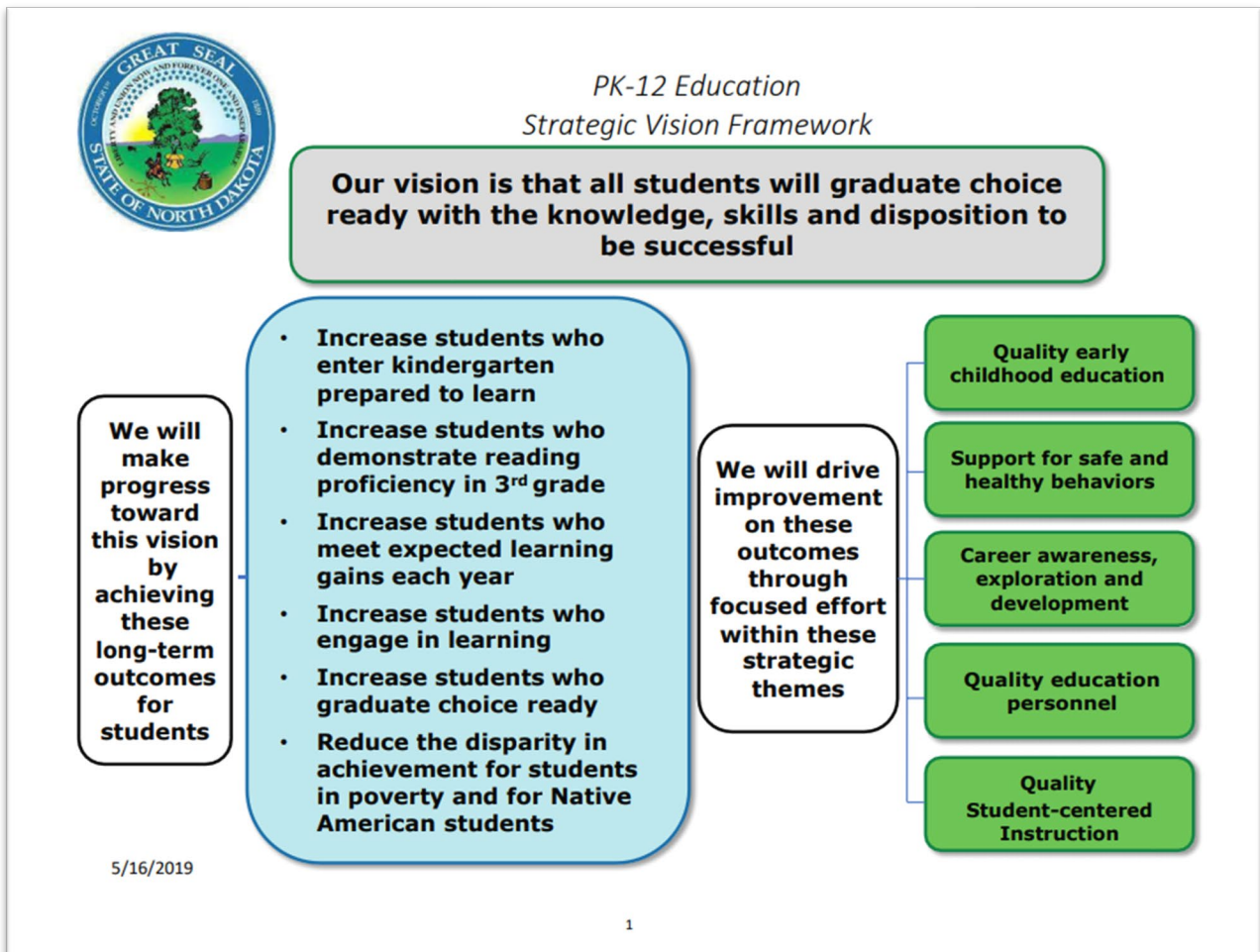
School	Date Submitted	Short Description	Response on Planning Proposal (PP)	Response on Implementation Plan (IP)	NDCC Waived
Bismarck – Career Academy	October 7, 2019	CBE in CTE	Approved October 2019	Approved April 2020	15.1-21 HS Grad 15.1-18 TQ 15.1-20 HS Time
Center for Distance Education	August 21, 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

### Schools Expressing Interest – Contact and additional information was provided

1. Bismarck – Simile Middle School (January 2019)
2. Bismarck – Bismarck High school (January)
3. Beach & Home on the Range (April 2019)
4. Dunseith (November 2018)
5. Ellendale (March 2018)
6. Grand Forks (October 2018)
7. Larimore – Kal Triplet
8. Midway (May 2019)
9. Milnor (March 2018)





1 HB 1478 – Learn Everywhere

2 NDCEL Testimony

3 Chairman Owens, Vice Chair Schreiber-Beck and members of the committee – for the record, my  
4 name is Dr. Aimee Copas. I serve as the Executive Director of the North Dakota Council of  
5 Educational Leaders representing all school leaders in ND.

6 I am here today in support of concepts within HB 1478. The concept promoted HB 1478 is positive  
7 in its nature. In 2017 with the passage of the Innovation Bill – some districts sought that  
8 application and their efforts were grounded in what is indicated in this bill. It is an understanding  
9 that learning most certainly can occur outside of the walls our school buildings and when well  
10 directed it has the potential to satisfy content standards. This bill allows for another pathway to  
11 quantify that learning.

12 It is important that this work is grounded in data, partnership with content specialist, and the entity  
13 or person(s) in that local community that is able to partner with the school. The concept about  
14 external partnerships, externships and internships are important to continue to supporting learning  
15 in North Dakota.

16 The one caution that we would have is surrounded in the actual need for this bill. NDCEL  
17 believes that opportunity to do this may already covered in law through the law passed in 2017  
18 **15.1-06-08.2**, however the need for this level of specificity in law can be determined by this  
19 committee and by the chambers.

20 Thank you for your time.

21  
*NDCEL is the strongest unifying voice representing and supporting administrators and educational leaders in pursuit of quality education  
for all students in North Dakota.*

*Executive Director: Aimee Copas-----Assistant Director: Russ Ziegler*





February 1, 2021

Dear Chairman Owens and Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing Sleepy Hollow to voice our support of HB 1478, which would create the opportunity for students to obtain credit for their experiences outside the classroom.

The point of education is to create well rounded individuals who become contributing members of society. Involvement in the arts is central to this as it teaches critical thinking, teamwork and the development of self-reliant abilities which positively impact one's entire life.

Sleepy Hollow Theatre & Arts Park has been providing artistic opportunities to youth and audiences in the Bismarck-Mandan community since 1990. We have since produced over 50 Broadway Style Musicals over 32 years and involved 185,000 students, teachers, orchestra members, volunteers, and over 200,000 audience members. Our communities and state benefit from this cultural and economic impact.

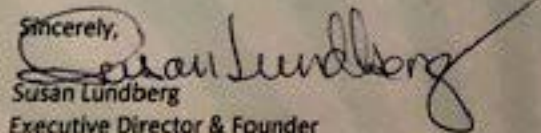
Our students dedicate hundreds of hours in rehearsals, performances and set construction. Throughout their training, they learn the value of preparedness, memorization and delivery, movement and awareness of the space they occupy, appropriate timing and flexibility. They practice teamwork, what it means to be part of an ensemble, and how critical it is to pull one's weight—just what we want young people to cultivate for successful futures.

Over the years teachers have shared that when school starts in the fall, through their demeanor and confidence level, they can always tell who has been involved in Sleepy Hollow.

Shouldn't they have the opportunity to see that experience and those life skills rewarded in the form of school credit? We believe this creates a hunger for more learning and development.

HB 1478 will recognize that the extra-curricular efforts of our students translate to much more than a well-performed play—they foster individuals who are creative, confident, and competent.

We thank the legislature for its support of the arts and its foresight in helping our young people grow. We respectfully ask that you pass HB 1478. Thank you,

Sincerely,  
  
 Susan Lundberg  
 Executive Director & Founder

Sleepy Hollow Theatre & Arts Park is a recipient of the North Dakota Governor's Award for the Arts.

★ SLEEPY HOLLOW THEATRE & ARTS PARK ★





February 2, 2021

Chairman Owens and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Carrie O'Rourke and I represent **yes. every kid.** We are dedicated to creating an environment where every student receives an individualized education. I am providing written testimony in support of **HB 1478 – Alternative Educational Opportunities Outside the Classroom.**

We applaud the efforts this body has taken to embrace bold and positive reform for students and families which propel North Dakota forward by empowering school leaders with the flexibility to implement innovative programs and learning models. To succeed in today's dynamic global economy, young people need different skills and mindsets that the current system was not designed to foster.

This legislation captures existing student learning and creates an eco-system of additional learning opportunities for North Dakota students, wherever and whenever they occur. Every parent knows that every child is special and unique, and deserving of an education that respects their individuality. A quality education begins with this recognition, and enables every student to discover, develop, and apply their innate gifts to live a purposeful and fulfilling life. The future of education in North Dakota rests in moving toward an open education system, modeled around the individuality of every student.

I appreciate the opportunity to address this committee, and most of all, I want to close by again applauding you, this body, and this state for putting the needs of students first and reimagining what is possible. **HB 1478** will provide the opportunity for a wide variety of experiences and educational methods that has the potential to transform a student's life – allowing all students in North Dakota to realize their full potential to discover, develop, and apply their innate gifts to maximize their ability to contribute to society.



Carrie O'Rourke  
Regional Director  
c: 850-510-5399  
[yeseverykid.com](http://yeseverykid.com)

yes. every kid.

our  
mission.



yes. every kid. works with anyone to support policies that respect the dignity of every student, fosters a diversity of approaches, and is open to the free flow of ideas and innovation.

#### INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING IS THE FUTURE

Transformative education starts with the recognition that every person is unique, with different aptitudes, passions, and goals. Helping students discover, develop, and apply their innate gifts to maximize their ability to contribute to society requires an individualized approach.

**yes. every kid. supports North Dakota lawmakers' efforts to modernize and individualize learning for students all across the state.**

#### LEARN EVERYWHERE HB1478

Provide credit for learning, wherever it occurs. Children learn through a diversity of approaches and from a variety of experiences; this includes learning in a traditional classroom and experiences far beyond the walls of a traditional school.

Learn Everywhere policies:

- Create a path for students to earn course credits for these out-of-classroom learning opportunities.
- Through partnerships with nonprofits, businesses, trade associations, educators, and other community organizations, students are able to receive district- and college-recognized credit for approved programs at participating providers.
- For instance, students could receive credit for performing in a play at a local playhouse, participating in a robotics club, a competitive swim or gymnastics team, an engineering internship, completing one of the many programs offered through 4H, and many other educational opportunities provided in the community.

# yes. every kid.

## MASTERY BASED EDUCATION SB2196

### *The Problem:*

**A system of education designed for a different time.**

America's system of education was designed for a world that no longer exists. It was created more than a century ago to accommodate a transition from rural farm life to a 20th Century economy where most workers would find employment in factories in urban centers.

### *The Solution:*

**A system redesigned with the student at the center.**

Despite the challenges, a focus on student-centered, innovative approaches is taking root in schools, districts, and states across the country, including North Dakota. But shifting the paradigm from a school-centered model to a student-centered model

- Requires reimagining what education could be, and changing the laws, policies, and customs that prevent innovators from realizing a modern system of education.
- Recognizes the development of specific skill sets through a competency-based framework, instead of assessing a student on grade-level benchmarks.
- Allows students to explore key academic subjects through the lens of their own interests and passions, keeping them excited about the material and engaged in planning their personalized learning path.





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*Great Public Schools**Great Public Service*

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Testimony on HB 1478  
House Education Committee  
February 2, 2021

Chairman Owens and members of the Committee, I am Nick Archuleta, president of North Dakota. I am happy to offer testimony in support of HB 1478 and to urge a DO PASS recommendation for the bill.

Members of the Committee, HB 1478 is a bill that dovetails nicely with steps taken since the passage of the Innovative Education Bill in 2017 that provide forward leaning practices to advance the educational experience in North Dakota. This bill, if passed, will allow students to experience and learn atypical educational modalities such as apprenticeships, internships, community programs, and more. Students will earn academic credit in ways unavailable to them today and licensed North Dakota teachers will be the teachers of record.

In addition, HB 1478 provides the necessary safeguards that will allow the Superintendent of Public Instruction to determine that each educational experience meets the high standards to which all our students are held.

For these reasons, Chairman Owens, and members of the Committee, I urge a DO Pass recommendation for HB 1478.

**House Education  
HB1478**

**February 2, 2021**

Chairman Owens and members of the committee, my name is Wayde Sick, State Director of the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am submitting testimony in support for HB1478. I apologize for not being present in person, but other Legislative obligations do not allow me to provide this testimony in person.

HB1478 would allow school districts and their boards to award academic credit for activities students complete outside of the walls of the school. Career and Technical Education has been doing this for years, placing students with employers or completing projects in the community. This should not be unique to Career and Technical Education coursework, but open to other electives and core courses.

The Department of Career and Technical Education is willing and able to partner with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction and the State Legislature, to develop rules and a program that can allow greater flexibility to our school districts to educate students through community partnerships.

This concludes my testimony. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Wayde Sick

[wasick@nd.gov](mailto:wasick@nd.gov)

701-328-2259



# Gateway to Science

February 1, 2021

North Dakota House Education Committee  
North Dakota House of Representatives

Re: HB1478

Dear House Education Committee Members,

I am writing to state my support of Learn Everywhere HB1478, a bill that would allow students to earn credit for quality out-of-school time (OST) learning experiences. Students across the state are active in afterschool clubs, summer camps, internships, and other activities where they are finding inspiration and hands-on experience applicable to their future careers. These career explorations that occur in informal settings can be critical to developing a student's preliminary skills and ultimately lead to a greater motivation to learn in a formal setting.

At Gateway to Science, North Dakota's hands-on science center located in Bismarck, we offer a variety of interactive STEM opportunities in an informal setting for students of all ages. Career exploration is an integral part of all of our OST programs, especially for our middle school camps. STEM professionals from local businesses partner with Gateway to Science educators to lead hands-on activities, share their experiences and passion with students, and provide an insight into their jobs in camps focused on topics ranging from engineering to environmental sciences. The impact on our STEM campers made by these professionals, educators, and businesses is immeasurable. Our connection with the Bismarck Public Schools Career Academy introduces students to a variety of study areas and careers.

A week-long STEM camp typically provides middle school students with approximately 35 contact hours of interactive, hands-on learning. What do students do during our STEM camps? They may collect soil samples and run basic soil analysis, or review blueprints and visit a construction site, or intubate a medical training dummy, or practice gas metal arc welding, or fly a drone, and so much more. This is the type of highly interactive learning experience that Gateway to Science would submit for consideration to earn credits for our students.



North Dakota House Education Committee  
February 1, 2021

The inspiration to learn about science, and other subjects too, often comes from an informal experience. A *Nature* magazine article, “Learning in the Wild: Much of what people know about science is learned informally. Education policy-makers should take note,” published online in April 2010 supports this observation: <https://www.nature.com/articles/464813b>. “The personal nature of informal science education is what makes it powerful. The question 'why is this relevant?' never even arises.”

Learn Everywhere HB1478 supports North Dakota’s “choice ready” approach to education, allowing students to seek out opportunities that fit their individual learning goals. Student-centered education that incorporates OST opportunities can build on students’ unique and innate gifts, helping them to maximize their ability to contribute to society.

I strongly encourage that HB1478 receive a positive vote from the House Education Committee.

Sincerely,

Beth Demke  
Executive Director

## **Milnor Public School District No. 2**

**530 Fifth Street | P.O. Box 369**

**Milnor, North Dakota 58060-0369**

**Phone: 701-427-5237 | Fax: 701-427-5304**

**[www.milnor.k12.nd.us](http://www.milnor.k12.nd.us)**

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**Chris Larson, Superintendent and Activities Director**

**Seth Engelstad, High School Principal**

**Ryan Weber, Elementary Principal**

To: North Dakota  
House of Representatives  
Education Committee

From: Chris Larson  
Superintendent  
Milnor Public School

Date: Monday, February 1, 2021

Topic: HB 1478

As a leader of a small school, I feel it is necessary to speak out in support of HB 1478. The additional flexibility provided by HB 1478 would allow a more personalized learning system for schools and open additional possibilities for students.

HB 1478 provides a structure for achieving credit outside of the traditional classroom. We already have some of this opportunity through the CTE system in North Dakota. This has been a value to many students in my district and to the community. I view 1478 as an expansion of what already exists. The first thing that comes to mind for me is physical education credits for students that already participate in athletics. Is a basketball player really mastering skills in a PE course that they are not in their sport? For the vast majority, the answer is no. What if we could give that credit out for participation in the activity? This hour in their school day could be spent taking a different class that may better suit the long-term goals of the student, or even in the community learning work-based skills.

In small school districts we have a small number of teachers and in turn, a small number of course offerings each hour. If we can add flexibility to allow students to show their proficiency in other ways, there is a direct and immediate benefit to the student. This creates larger potential for college credit and work-related experiences that have a financial benefit to families and to the local community.

I urge you to send HB 1478 with a “do pass” recommendation.

Sincerely,

Chris Larson  
Superintendent  
Milnor Public School



Written testimony from Ann Pollert

House Education Committee @9:00 February 2, 2021

Re: HB 1478

Chairman Owens and Committee Members

My name is Ann Pollert and I am the Director of Workforce Development for General Equipment & Supplies, Inc. I am here to testify in support of HB 1478.

General Equipment & Supplies has locations in Williston, Minot, Bismarck and Fargo, ND and my job is to recruit young people interested in careers in our industry and with General Equipment. Our company has supported numerous students through our tuition reimbursement program at NDSCS and we currently have 16 first and second year students enrolled at NDSCS who upon graduation will be full time employees of General Equipment.

We view HB 1478 as a potential tool that will help us to connect with students who are perhaps interested in a technical career but just don't know enough about it. Through a program offered because of HB 1478 they can explore some of these technical or skilled careers while in High School and in doing so receive educational credits.

HB1478 is just another pathway for students to learn about high demand careers that not only exist in ND but perhaps right in their own hometown. Giving these students the option to seek high demand and exciting career and stay right here in ND after graduation. As you know, there is high demand for many careers in ND and to solve this concerning issue, we need to be innovative. HB 1478 is innovative.

The ND Legislature passed a bill last session that created ND Career Builder. We see HB 1478 dovetailing with ND Career Builder where the connecting of potential students seeking potential employers to sponsor them through a technical educational degree can take place.

There is no question that the hardest part of my job is finding and connecting with individuals interested in technical careers. HB 1478 will be a resource to help solve that problem and introduce our youth to the real world right here in ND awaiting them after graduation from High School.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

**Testimony of Kathryn Tyler in Support of HB 1478****Submitted to the House Education Committee****February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Kathryn Tyler, a North Dakota resident, former participant in the Sleepy Hollow Summer Theatre Program and a graduate of Century High School in Bismarck, North Dakota. I am writing to encourage you to support HB 1478.

During my time in high school, it was not just the opportunity to learn from the wonderful teachers I had at CHS that made me a better student; it was activities outside of the classroom, particularly in the arts, that supplemented my learning and made me a more well-rounded student, person, and citizen of my community. One experience that I found particularly formative, and relevant to this bill, was my time spent in Sleepy Hollow Summer Theatre.

While participating in Sleepy Hollow productions, I learned what you might expect from a summer theatre program: how to sing, dance, act, memorize lines, follow directions, and be a part of a show. However, I learned so much more beyond these skills that I ended up taking with me into the classroom:

A theatre production is like one big group project; you cannot simply exist in your own corner and expect the show to go well. Everyone has an important role to

play, and it is both recognizing everyone's value to the team, and how to work together cohesively, that makes the show run smoothly. There is so much coordination required for a successful production, and it is a true feat of teamwork.

Sleepy Hollow also taught me how to think more creatively. The script is the basic structure of a show, but it is the combination of everyone's individual creative choices that gives the show its spark. To be successful is not always as simple as following directions, memorizing answers, and acing assessments. Learning to make your own creative choices boldly is an essential skill in the classroom, workplace, and everyday life.

Sleepy Hollow provides the opportunity to work alongside students of different age groups, something that is not always possible when in the bubble of your own grade level. This diversity of experience is a gateway to a wealth of knowledge. When I was new to the program, I learned so much from the older students I looked up to, and when I had been in the program for several years, I had the wonderful opportunity to be a mentor to newer students.

Additionally, I was able to become more confident. I was admittedly quite shy before I started the program for the first time, but by the end of the summer, I was able to stand up in front of an entire audience without stage fright, and that newfound confidence carried over into my academic life. Being able to

communicate ideas clearly and confidently, and to work with constructive criticism are crucial skills that were continually strengthened each year I participated.

Finally, my summers with Sleepy Hollow found their way into more of my college applications and essays than many of my academic experiences simply because of how invaluable the skills I learned there were. Looking back, I realize just how much my summers with Sleepy Hollow helped me with teamwork, confidence, project-based learning, creative thinking, and mentorship, all skills that were not only transferrable to the classroom, but that are still so very important to me today as a young woman developing her career.

Though much of my supplemental learning was through the arts, I believe this bill could be beneficial to many students of varying passions and interests. There are so many opportunities for young people in our communities to engage in their areas of interest outside the classroom. Not only do I think this will help further engage students in the subjects in which they already succeed, but it can also provide real-world experience that can help their education seem more meaningful, and teach them skills that will supplement, and even enhance, what they learn in every classroom.

I will emphasize that experiences like this can be fun and rewarding in their own right, but often require a considerable amount of time and effort outside the

school day. Offering academic credit for these kinds of experiences will not only reward students for hard work completed outside the classroom, but also encourage students to seek out these enriching opportunities in the first place, opportunities they may not have otherwise considered.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. I urge a Do Pass on HB 1478.

# 2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1478  
2/8/2021

Relating to alternative education opportunities outside the classroom for course credit; and to provide for a legislative management report

**Chairman Owens** called the meeting to order at **10:33 AM**.

Present: Reps. Owens, Schreiber-Beck, Heinert, Hoverson, D. Johnson, M. Johnson, Longmuir, Marschall, Pyle, Richter, Simons, Zubke, Guggisberg and Hager.

**Rep. Schreiber-Beck** presented amendment .05001, #5919, #5920

**Rep M. Johnson** moved the amendment .05001, seconded by **Rep Guggisberg**.  
**Voice vote. Motion carried**

**Rep. Heinert** moved **Do Pass as Amended**, seconded by **Rep Longmuir**.

**Roll call vote:**

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Mark S. Owens	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Ron Guggisberg	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Dennis Johnson	Y
Representative Mary Johnson	Y
Representative Donald Longmuir	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Brandy Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Luke Simons	N
Representative Denton Zubke	Y

**Motion carried. 13 – 1 – 0. Rep Schreiber-Beck** is carrier.

**Chairman Owens** closed the hearing on HB 1478 at **10:37 AM**.

*Bev Monroe, Committee Clerk*

21.0643.05001  
Title.06000

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for  
Representative Schreiber-Beck  
February 3, 2021

DR 2/8/21  
1081

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1478

Page 1, line 12, after the first underscored comma insert "pre-apprenticeships."

Renumber accordingly

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1478: Education Committee (Rep. Owens, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1478 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 12, after the first underscored comma insert "pre-apprenticeships."

Renumber accordingly



21.0643.05001

Sixty-seventh  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1478**

Introduced by

Representatives Schreiber-Beck, Heinert, D. Johnson, M. Johnson, Longmuir, Zubke

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to alternative education opportunities outside the classroom for course  
3 credit; and to provide for a legislative management report.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **School districts - Policy - Alternative curriculum outside the classroom -**  
8 **Participation - Report to legislative management.**

9 1. For purposes of this section:

10 a. "Educational opportunity" means instruction outside the classroom which meets  
11 course content standards, as determined by the superintendent of public  
12 instruction. The term includes work-based learning, pre-apprenticeships,  
13 apprenticeships, internships, industry certifications, and community programs.

14 b. "Sponsoring entity" means a business, for-profit organization, nonprofit  
15 organization, trade association, parent of a student, teacher, or administrator that  
16 partners with a school district or governing board of a nonpublic school to provide  
17 educational opportunities for students.

18 2. The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules to administer this section.

19 3. The board of a school district or governing board of a nonpublic school may adopt a  
20 policy to allow students enrolled in grades six through twelve to earn course credit  
21 through educational opportunities with a sponsoring entity.

22 4. A policy adopted under this section must provide criteria for:

23 a. The submission, approval, and evaluation of proposals for educational  
24 opportunities by sponsoring entities for which a student may earn course credit;

1           b. Sponsoring entity eligibility; and

2           c. Educational opportunity accountability.

3       5. The board of a school district or governing board of a nonpublic school may accept a  
4 proposal from any eligible sponsoring entity. To be approved, a proposal must:

5           a. Provide increased educational opportunities for students;

6           b. Improve the academic success of students; and

7           c. Identify a teacher of record who is employed by the school district or nonpublic  
8 school, is licensed under chapter 15.1-18, and has approved the proposal.

9       6. Upon approval by the board of a school district or governing board of a nonpublic  
10 school, the proposal must be submitted to the superintendent of public instruction for  
11 review and approval before implementation. The superintendent of public instruction  
12 shall convene a review committee to approve or deny a proposal under this section  
13 within ninety days of submission to the superintendent. The review committee consists  
14 of the superintendent, who shall serve as the chairman of the review committee, the  
15 chairman of the house education committee or the chairman's designee, the chairman  
16 of the senate education committee or the chairman's designee, one member of the  
17 minority party selected through collaboration between the respective minority leaders  
18 of each chamber, and the director of career and technical education.

19       7. If a proposal is denied under subsection 6, the superintendent shall provide the board  
20 of a school district or governing board of a nonpublic school with a written explanation  
21 including the reasons for denial.

22       8. If a proposal is approved by the superintendent of public instruction, the board of a  
23 school district or governing board of a nonpublic school shall implement the proposal  
24 and allow students to participate in the educational opportunity for course credit.

25       9. Any school district or nonpublic school participating in the program shall provide  
26 evaluation data to the superintendent of public instruction at the time and in the  
27 manner requested by the superintendent of public instruction.

28       10. The superintendent of public instruction may revoke proposal approval if the  
29 superintendent of public instruction determines the school district, nonpublic school, or  
30 sponsoring entity failed to comply with the agreed upon terms of the educational

1            opportunity proposal or the school district policy, or failed to meet the requirements of  
2            this section.

3        11. If approval of a proposal is revoked under subsection 10, the superintendent of public  
4            instruction shall provide a report to the legislative management regarding the  
5            revocation.

6        12. The superintendent of public instruction shall provide information on the  
7            superintendent of public instruction's website and in biennial reports to the legislative  
8            management regarding proposals under this section.

21.0643.05001  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for  
Representative Schreiber-Beck  
February 3, 2021

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1478

Page 1, line 12, after the first underscored comma insert "pre-apprenticeships."

Renumber accordingly

**2021 SENATE EDUCATION**

**HB 1478**

# 2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Room JW216, State Capitol

7761HB 1478  
3/9/2021

<b>A BILL relating to alternative education opportunities outside the classroom for course credit; and to provide for a legislative management report.</b>
--

**Chair Schaible** opened the hearing at 9:45 AM

**Discussion Topics:**

- Choice Ready students
- Work force development
- DPI and Legislative oversight
- Mirroring of existing CTE program
- Framework for districts

Senator	Attendance
Chairman Schaible	P
Senator Elkin	P
Senator Conley	P
Senator Lemm	P
Senator Oban	P
Senator Wobbema	P

**Rep Schreiber-Beck – Dist 25** – introduced the bill #7761

**Ann Ellefson, DPI – Director of Academic Support** - testified in support #8153

**Shannon Full – FMWF Chamber** – testified in support #8193

**Wayde Sick – Dir of ND Dept CTE** – testified in support #8087

**Kyle Martin – Tech ND** – testified in support #8257

**Additional written testimony:**

**Mark Schneider** – support #8191

**Nick Archuleta** – support #8166

**Brittany Sachdeva** – support #8159

**Ken Callahan** – support #8002

**Jason Ehlert** – support #8000

**Kent Ellis** – support #7932

**Dr. Aimee Copas** – support #7919

**Kim Schneider** – support #7885

**Carrie O'Rourke** – support #7840

**Chris Larson** – support #7605

Adjourned at 10:00 AM

*Lynn Wolf, Committee Clerk*

**HOUSE BILL 1478** Senate Education Committee Hearing Tuesday March 9, 2021

Introduction/Support of HB1478 provided by Cindy Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative

Chairman Donald Schaible and Committee Members:

House Bill 1478 would create a new section to chapter 15.1-07 which is titled School Districts. If passed, the overall result would be the opportunity for students, in grades six through twelve, to receive credit for alternative education opportunities outside of the classroom. Alternative education opportunities could range from participating in an extracurricular activity (theatre, strolling strings, athletics, etc.), holding a job, interning, holding an office in student council, or completing specific requirements of a club or organization (scouting, 4-H, etc.).

This is OPTIONAL for school districts, requires participation of all involved (i.e.: if student is receiving credit for holding a job – involvement of district, employer, teacher of record, student) and requires approval through the department of public instruction.

The proposed legislation would provide the initial waiver process for school districts who choose to permit students to receive credit for alternative education opportunities outside the classroom. The department of public instruction would adopt the rules to administer this section of code, review all district proposals with a defined review committee (includes legislators), allow or deny the proposal, monitor the proposal, revoke a proposal, and provide reports and information to legislative management.

Why this legislation:

- Aligns with the strategic vision of education which states: “Our vision is that all students will graduate choice ready with the knowledge, skills and disposition to be successful.”
- Aligns with Work Force Development Council career exploration (education).
- Provides the initial waiver for districts, yet is optional, includes criteria and provides oversight by DPI and the legislature (review committee members and legislative management).
- Provides for local control.
- Provides opportunities for students, encourages exploration by students, and may incentivize students since can receive credit.
- Encourages districts to be innovative.
- Could enhance social emotional learning (SEL).
- Includes grades six through twelve.
- Mirrors existing CTE program but does not replace nor interfere with the CTE Program.

This optional opportunity for districts would be beneficial for the students who choose to participate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an overview of this legislation.

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of House Bill 1478.

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1478**  
**Senate Education Committee**  
**March 9, 2021**  
**by Ann Ellefson, Director of Academic Support**  
**(701) 328-2488**  
**Department of Public Instruction**

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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 1478, which provides alternative learning opportunities outside the classroom and allows for associated course credit.

During the 2017 legislative assembly, statute was established providing the state superintendent the authority to waive certain sections of the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) 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). On this chart, the final column documents the section(s) of NDCC where additional flexibility has been provided. To date, we have seen limited requests for the flexibility described in HB 1478; however, we believe the structures placed in this bill would provide additional learning opportunities for students,



flexibility in how to provide those opportunities, and options for those not participating in the Innovative Education Programming flexibilities.

As you'll recall, the 66<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly adopted and embraced North Dakota's first ever PK-12 Education Strategic Vision: All students will graduate choice ready with the knowledge, skills, and disposition to be successful (Attachment B). HB 1478 is directly aligned with the Strategic Vision's themes of supporting "Quality Student-Centered Instruction" and "Career Awareness." We also believe this bill could serve as a catalyst of change in the traditional learning environment and engage students differently in their learning.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, NDDPI stands in support of this bill and is ready to assist in the process for the students of North Dakota.

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

## Attachment A

### List of schools requesting Innovative Education Program

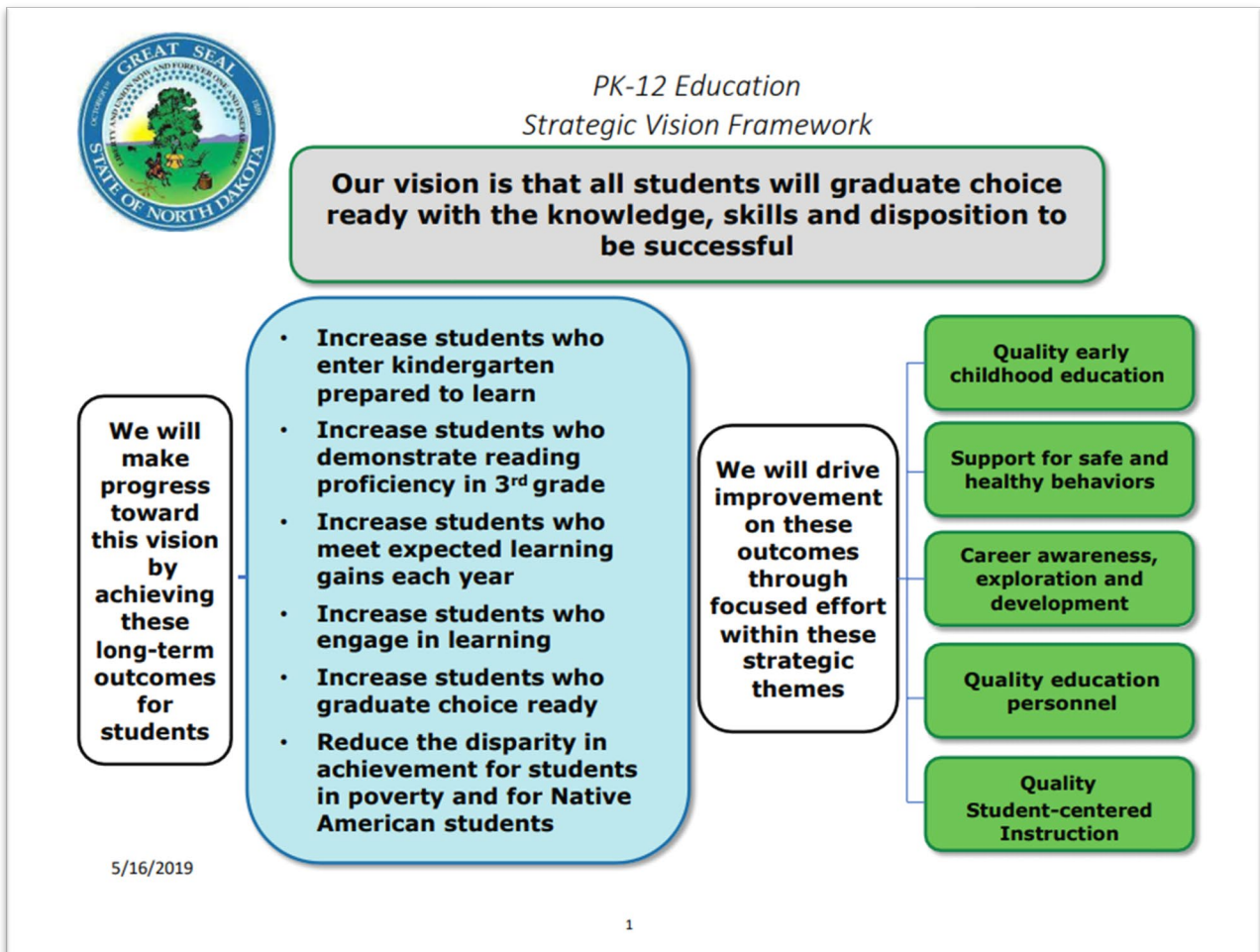
School	Date Submitted	Short Description	Response on Planning Proposal (PP)	Response on Implementation Plan (IP)	NDCC Waived
Bismarck – Career Academy	October 7, 2019	CBE in CTE	Approved October 2019	Approved April 2020	15.1-21 HS Grad 15.1-18 TQ 15.1-20 HS Time
Center for Distance Education	August 21, 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

### Schools Expressing Interest – Contact and additional information was provided

1. Bismarck – Simile Middle School (January 2019)
2. Bismarck – Bismarck High school (January)
3. Beach & Home on the Range (April 2019)
4. Dunseith (November 2018)
5. Ellendale (March 2018)
6. Grand Forks (October 2018)
7. Larimore – Kal Triplet
8. Midway (May 2019)
9. Milnor (March 2018)





To: Senate Education  
From: Shannon Full, President/CEO, FMWF Chamber of Commerce  
Date: March 9, 2021  
RE: **Support HB 1478**

Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Shannon Full and I serve as the President of the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce. I rise today in **support of HB 1478**.

On behalf of our over 2,000 Chamber member businesses, I urge your support for this legislation which has the potential to unlock tremendously impactful collaborations between the K-12 sector and the business community. Within our region, we strive to serve as a catalyst for growth and prosperity and are uniquely positioned to bring together employers and educators, in a meaningful way, to help them further explore potential credit bearing experiential learning opportunities.

In 2018, our Chamber developed an Education committee designed to bring educators and employers together as we seek to address the workforce needs of our community and region. An initial goal developed by the committee was for The Chamber to serve as a conduit for helping businesses develop, and deploy, impactful experiential learning opportunities for 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. To this extent, we recently launched a program designed to work alongside businesses as they develop, or enhance, their own internship program. If passed, this legislation will serve as a crucial component in further unlocking the true potential collaborations between educators and employers as they strive to benefit the students of our state.

On behalf of our Chamber membership, we respectfully urge a **do pass on HB 1478**.

Thank you for your consideration of this innovative legislation and I'm happy to stand for any questions.

Shannon Full  
[Sfull@fmwfcchamber.com](mailto:Sfull@fmwfcchamber.com)  
920.422.3331

**Senate Education  
HB1478**

**March 9, 2021**

Chairman Schaible and members of the committee, my name is Wayde Sick, State Director of the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am submitting testimony in support for HB1478.

HB1478 would allow school districts and their boards to award academic credit for activities students complete outside of the walls of the school. Career and Technical Education has been doing this for years, placing students with employers or completing projects in the community. This should not be unique to Career and Technical Education coursework, but open to other electives and core courses.

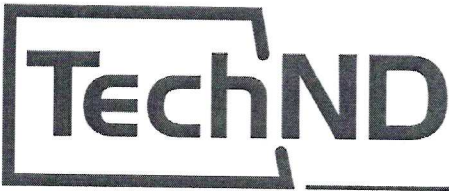
The Department of Career and Technical Education is willing and able to partner with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction and the State Legislature, to develop rules and a program that can allow greater flexibility to our school districts to educate students through community partnerships.

This concludes my testimony. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Wayde Sick

[wasick@nd.gov](mailto:wasick@nd.gov)

701-328-2259



#8257

PO Box 2599  
Bismarck, ND 58502  
701.355.4458  
office@technd.org  
www.technd.org

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**Testimony of Kyle Martin**  
Executive Director  
TechND

**In Support of HB 1478**  
March 9, 2021

Chairman Schaible and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Kyle Martin, executive director of the Technology Council of North Dakota (TechND). I am appearing today to voice support of HB 1478.

TechND, formerly known as the Information Technology Council of North Dakota (ITCND), was created in 2000 by North Dakota business, government and education leaders who recognized the need to strengthen the state's information technology infrastructure and reposition the state as a national leader in IT. The organization has since expanded its focus to include members from the technology industry as a whole. TechND has over 60 member organizations, with representatives from both the public and private sector.

TechND supports after school programs that encourage career exploration in the fields of information technology and computer science. After school programs including Cybersecurity Camps, STEM programs at Gateway to Science, Girls Who Code, You Code Girl, and many others encourage students to follow their curiosities, explore together and learn new skills that could one day shape their future careers. SB 1478 will incentivize more students to participate in educational after school programs by providing them with school credit for doing so.

North Dakota's technology subsector has increased by more than 17 percent over the last decade and projects more than 7,500 new and replacement technology positions will be needed in North Dakota over the next decade. After school programs play an important role in

filling these careers by encouraging career exploration in computer sciences and information technology.

TechND asks the Senate Education Committee recommend a do-pass on HB 1478.





## HB 1478

March 9, 2021

State Legislation,

HB 1478 is complementary to the CTE program already in place. It encourages/provides students an opportunity to earn credit outside of the classroom. As you are aware, this would give students opportunities to experience hands-on work and ultimately, help with future workforce development as students would have an opportunity to experience where they would be interested in future career goals.

I sit on the local High School Workforce Committee as we try to implement programs here locally to get students to be able to experience the real-world working efforts, and sit on the local Builders Association where we are working hand-in-hand with the local schools on this endeavor.

I support HB 1478 as the alternative education opportunities is a tremendous opportunity for students to experience pre-apprenticeship opportunities and to help them pave their future education and employment opportunities. This also helps the building industry with our biggest struggle of the workforce.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Schneider, AIA

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark D. Schneider". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Director of Development Services  
City of Williston ND





**Testimony on HB 1478  
Senate Education Committee  
March 9, 2021**

Chairman Schaible and members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Nick Archuleta, president of North Dakota United. I am happy to offer testimony today in support of HB 1478 and to urge a DO PASS recommendation for the bill.

Members of the Committee, HB 1478 is a bill whose provisions dovetail nicely with steps taken since the passage of the Innovative Education Bill in 2017. That bill provides forward leaning practices to advance educationally enriching experiences for students in North Dakota. HB 1478, when passed, will allow students to experience and learn from atypical educational modalities such as apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships, internships, community programs, and more. Students will earn academic credit in ways previously unavailable to them, while trained and licensed North Dakota educators serve as teachers of record.

In addition, HB 1478 will provide the necessary guidance that will direct the Superintendent of Public Instruction to determine that each educational experience meets the high standards to which all of North Dakota's students are held.

For these reasons, Chairman Schaible, and members of the Committee, I urge a DO PASS recommendation for HB 1478.

**HB 1478**  
**Senate Education Committee**  
**Sen. Schaible, Chair**  
**March 9, 2021**

Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Brittany Sachdeva and I am Vice President of Operations for Sanford Health in Fargo. I am writing in support of HB 1478, an exciting opportunity to build North Dakota workforce by allowing high school students to earn academic credit for experiences outside the classroom. Healthcare, like many other industries in North Dakota, faces a growing challenge when it comes to workforce. In addition to a chronic nursing shortage – North Dakota has nearly 1,000 unfilled nursing positions – North Dakota hospital systems need lab techs, rad techs, pharmacists, engineers, nursing assistants, nutrition services workers, and many more positions.

HB 1478 creates a meaningful pathway to connect with students and help them imagine what a career in healthcare might look like. We envision programs that would invite students to observe a variety of healthcare professions to get a better idea of what career areas they may want to pursue. Another option would be to create a certified nursing assistant internship that would allow students to become CNAs and actually get paid for some of the learning experiences gleaned in the program. CNA experience is a beneficial building block for a variety of medical careers including nursing, therapies and medical services.

The opportunity to build upon traditional education with hands-on and practical learning is giant step in the right direction to help address North Dakota's workforce shortages. We welcome the opportunity to partner with school districts to provide valuable learning experiences designed to help students get a jump start on their futures while helping to build North Dakota workforce.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have questions or would like additional information.

Brittany Sachdeva, Operations Vice President  
Sanford Health Fargo  
Brittany.Sachdeva@SanfordHealth.org  
701-417-2319



Western Area Builders Association

PO Box 1825, Williston, ND 58802

701-572-5744

WesternNDBuilders.org

**March 8, 2021**

**Chairman Schaible,**

Re: Senate Education Committee HB 1478

I would like to support HB 1478 as the alternative education opportunities it's a tremendous opportunity for students to experience pre-apprenticeship opportunities and to help them pave their future education and employment opportunities. This also helps the building industry with our biggest struggle of the workforce. This will help our workforce with getting the younger generation involved in the industry.

This encourages/provides students an opportunity to earn credit outside of the classroom. This would give students opportunities to experience hands-on work and ultimately, help with future workforce development as students would have an opportunity to experience where they would be interested in future career goals.

**Sincerely,**

*Ken Callahan*

**Ken Callahan**  
**Western Area Builders Association**  
President  
[Ken.Callahan@mdu.com](mailto:Ken.Callahan@mdu.com)  
701.770.5030



## NORTH DAKOTA STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

2901 Twin City Dr. Suite 201  
Mandan, North Dakota 58554  
(701) 663-8821

© GCU 250-C

March 9, 2021

To the Honorable Donald Schaible and Member Senators of the Senate Education Committee

RE: House Bill 1478; Alternative Education Opportunities Outside the Classroom for Course Credit

Representing workers in the commercial, industrial, and residential construction industries from foundation to finish, we are committed to promoting, recruiting, and developing careers in the skilled trades. This legislation would provide for additional experiences to students to promote careers in construction. As such, the North Dakota State Building and Construction Trades Council is in support of HB 1478.

Promoting promote careers in construction has become increasingly important as the needs for more skilled workers continues to be a challenge. As more of our members retire from the tools and an overall waning interest in the trades, we are exploring strategies to connect with students. We see the prospect to promote pre-apprenticeship programs as a precursor to registered apprenticeship programs as invaluable experience to encourage exploration in the skilled trades. Having certified educational opportunities outside the classroom that meet course content standards would be an effective means to fulfill innovative education strategies. With this bill, it would boost our existing strategies for promotion and recruitment of careers in construction and we respectfully urge a do pass recommendation for HB 1478.

With Kindest Regards, I am

Jason Ehlert  
President  
Lobbyist No. 347  
[Jason@ndbtu.org](mailto:Jason@ndbtu.org)

March 9, 2021

Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee,

A prediction based on the implementation of HB 1478:

Within five years, a longitudinal study will confirm an increase in degree and certification completions in apprenticeship programs and NDUS institutions. It will also acknowledge a reduction in dropout rates and non-completers in post-secondary education for the students participating in self-directed electives resulting from HB 1478. High school students active in Learn Everywhere programs will enjoy graduation rates similar to the unparalleled rates produced by Career and Technical Education course concentrators.

Student benefits for participation in self-directed independent study include:

- Unlimited career exploration opportunities and academic flexibility.
- A student athlete identifying their high school sport as a required PE credit allows the student to take additional electives offered at school.
- A student in work based learning may confirm their career aspirations and pursue formal post-secondary training.
- A student in work based learning may decide this is not the career path they want to pursue and would be able to examine alternatives before seeking post-secondary training.

As a vehicle for independent study credits, HB1478 is unequalled as the most cost effective method of increasing elective choices to school offerings without added investment for instruction, facilities or equipment.

It provides an avenue for increased interaction between our business communities, school districts and students.

HB 1478 satisfies some of the recommendations from the Work Force Development Council which include, but are not limited to:

- Increasing work based learning opportunities and collaborative business / labor associations.
- Implementing specific career exposure courses.
- Retain youth and recruit former residents.
- Enhance PK-12 career experience curriculum.
- Internships designed for small business, hands on, applied learning.

To date our nation's education industry is an institution whose function is the measuring of institutionally defined knowledge but not acknowledging or crediting observed competencies

originating outside of the academic environment. As we increase the Carnegie Units required for graduation we simultaneously reduce the time available for elective classes.

The University of Minnesota Mankato offers a Master of Science degree in Experiential Education based on its observations of a candidate's experiential learning and competencies. HB 1478 accomplishes the same for regular education students in North Dakota.

I fully support, and encourage passage of, HB 1478.

Kent Ellis  
Bismarck, ND



1 HB 1478 – Learn Everywhere

2 NDCEL Testimony

3 Chairman Schaible, and members of the committee – for the record, my name is Dr. Aimee Copas.  
4 I serve as the Executive Director of the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders representing  
5 all school leaders in ND.

6 I am here today in support of general concepts within HB 1478. The concept promoted HB 1478  
7 is positive in its nature. In 2017 with the passage of the Innovation Bill – some districts sought  
8 that application and their efforts were grounded in what is indicated in this bill. It is an  
9 understanding that learning most certainly can occur outside of the walls our school buildings and  
10 when well directed it has the potential to satisfy content standards. This bill allows for another  
11 pathway to quantify that learning.

12 It is important that this work is grounded in data, partnership with content specialist, and the entity  
13 or person(s) in that local community that is able to partner with the school. The concept about  
14 external partnerships, externships and internships are important to continue to supporting learning  
15 in North Dakota.

16 Thank you for your time.

17

*NDCEL is the strongest unifying voice representing and supporting administrators and educational leaders in pursuit of quality education  
for all students in North Dakota.*

*Executive Director: Aimee Copas-----Assistant Director: Russ Ziegler*



#7885

March 9, 2021

Senate Education Committee  
North Dakota Legislative Assembly  
State Capitol Building  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Chairman Schaible and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. My name is Kim Schneider and I represent the North Dakota Association of Builders (NDAB). Our home building industry is proud to support a growing North Dakota and we are fueled by the talents of workers including electricians, plumbers, masons, carpenters, and the many trades that make up the construction industry. HB 1478 would provide the hands-on experiences that would help promote, recruit, and make aware to students the various career opportunities that are available to them.

With a growing workforce and a strong need for skilled workers, the NDAB is supportive of these opportunities that are critical not only to our industry, but also provides a career path for our citizens that includes job security and high wages. Our members continue to struggle with filling positions of skilled workers and believe that being able to show students the possibilities of the many career paths involved in the building industry will be vital to our industries future but is also a wonderful career opportunity that contributes to the high quality of life in North Dakota. HB 1478 supports our future workforce.

On behalf of the North Dakota Association of Builders and our 2,000 members across the state, we urge a Do Pass recommendation on HB 1478.

We appreciate the support and continued partnership,

Kim Schneider  
Chief Executive Officer  
North Dakota Association of Builders

#### 2021 OFFICERS

##### PRESIDENT

Phil Ridbrudt, Minot

##### 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Jangula, Dickinson

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March 9, 2021

Chairman Schaible and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Carrie O'Rourke and I represent **yes. every kid.** We are dedicated to creating an environment where every student receives an individualized education. I am providing written testimony in support of **HB 1478 – Alternative Educational Opportunities Outside the Classroom.**

We applaud the efforts this body has taken to embrace bold and positive reform for students and families which propel North Dakota forward by empowering school leaders with the flexibility to implement innovative programs and learning models. To succeed in today's dynamic global economy, young people need different skills and mindsets that the current system was not designed to foster.

This legislation captures existing student learning and creates an eco-system of additional learning opportunities for North Dakota students, wherever and whenever they occur. Every parent knows that every child is special and unique, and deserving of an education that respects their individuality. A quality education begins with this recognition, and enables every student to discover, develop, and apply their innate gifts to live a purposeful and fulfilling life. The future of education in North Dakota rests in moving toward an open education system, modeled around the individuality of every student.

I appreciate the opportunity to address this committee, and most of all, I want to close by again applauding you, this body, and this state for putting the needs of students first and reimagining what is possible. **HB 1478** will provide the opportunity for a wide variety of experiences and educational methods that has the potential to transform a student's life – allowing all students in North Dakota to realize their full potential to discover, develop, and apply their innate gifts to maximize their ability to contribute to society.



Carrie O'Rourke  
Regional Director  
c: 850-510-5399  
[yeseverykid.com](http://yeseverykid.com)

**Milnor Public School District No. 2**

**530 Fifth Street | P.O. Box 369**

**Milnor, North Dakota 58060-0369**

**Phone: 701-427-5237 | Fax: 701-427-5304**

**[www.milnor.k12.nd.us](http://www.milnor.k12.nd.us)**

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**Chris Larson, Superintendent and Activities Director**

**Seth Engelstad, High School Principal**

**Ryan Weber, Elementary Principal**

To: North Dakota  
Senate  
Education Committee

From: Chris Larson  
Superintendent  
Milnor Public School

Date: Monday, February 1, 2021

Topic: HB 1478

Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee,

As a leader of a small school, I feel it is necessary to speak out in support of HB 1478. The additional flexibility provided by HB 1478 would allow a more personalized learning system for schools and open additional possibilities for students.

HB 1478 provides a structure for achieving credit outside of the traditional classroom. We already have some of this opportunity through the CTE system in North Dakota. This has been a value to many students in my district and to the community. I view 1478 as an expansion of what already exists. The first thing that comes to mind for me is physical education credits for students that already participate in athletics. Is a basketball player really mastering skills in a PE course that they are not in their sport? For the vast majority, the answer is no. What if we could give that credit out for participation in the activity? This hour in their school day could be spent taking a different class that may better suit the long-term goals of the student, or even in the community learning work-based skills.

In small school districts we have a small number of teachers and in turn, a small number of course offerings each hour. If we can add flexibility to allow students to show their proficiency in other ways, there is a direct and immediate benefit to the student. This creates larger potential for college credit and work-related experiences that have a financial benefit to families and to the local community.

I urge you to send HB 1478 with a “do pass” recommendation.

Sincerely,

Chris Larson  
Superintendent  
Milnor Public School

# 2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee  
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1478  
3/16/2021

**A BILL relating to alternative education opportunities outside the classroom for course credit; and to provide for a legislative management report.**

**Chair Schaible** called to order at 2:59 PM.

**Discussion Topics:**

- Committee Work

**Sen Oban** moved amendment 21.0643.06001

**Sen Conley** seconded

**Roll Call Vote: 6-Yea; 0-Nay; 0-AB Motion carries**

**Sen Wobbema** – moved a **Do Pass as Amended**

**Sen Oban:** seconded

**Roll Call Vote: 6-Yea; 0-Nay; 0-AB Motion carries**

**Sen Oban will carry the bill**

Adjourned at 3:09 PM

*Lynn Wolf, Committee Clerk*

Senator	Attendance
Chairman Schaible	P
Senator Elkin	P
Senator Conley	P
Senator Lemm	P
Senator Oban	P
Senator Wobbema	P

Amend .06001	Vote
Chairman Schaible	Y
Senator Elkin	Y
Senator Conley	Y
Senator Lemm	Y
Senator Oban	Y
Senator Wobbema	Y

HB 1478	Vote
Chairman Schaible	Y
Senator Elkin	Y
Senator Conley	Y
Senator Lemm	Y
Senator Oban	Y
Senator Wobbema	Y

March 9, 2021

CS  
316  
181

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1478

Page 2, line 10, replace "superintendent of public instruction" with "kindergarten through grade twelve education coordination council"

Page 2, line 11, after "and" insert "to the superintendent of public instruction for"

Page 2, line 12, remove "convene a review committee to"

Page 2, line 13, remove "to the superintendent. The review committee consists"

Page 2, remove lines 14 through 17

Page 2, line 18, remove "of each chamber, and the director of career and technical education"

Renumber accordingly

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1478, as engrossed: Education Committee (Sen. Schaible, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1478 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 2, line 10, replace "superintendent of public instruction" with "kindergarten through grade twelve education coordination council"

Page 2, line 11, after "and" insert "to the superintendent of public instruction for"

Page 2, line 12, remove "convene a review committee to"

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