

Good afternoon Education Committee. For the record I am Representative Brandy Pyle from district 22, which encompasses rural Cass county part of Fargo and West Fargo. I am here today for introduce HB 1135 for your consideration.

HB 1135 relates to eligibility for the North Dakota career and technical education scholarship and the North Dakota academic scholarship for high school students enrolled in school districts using course proficiency-based grading systems.

This comes to our attention as some schools are transitioning from a traditional 4.0 grading systems to a proficiency or mastery-based grading systems. I found it best explained on a website ([schoolology.com](https://www.schoolology.com))

“[Standards-based grading](#) (SBG) is an intentional way for teachers to track their students' progress and achievements while focusing on helping students learn and reach their highest potential. It is based on students showing signs of mastery or understanding various lessons and skills. Standards-based grading is often contrasted with a more traditional approach to grading and assessment. Instead of the all-or-nothing, percentages-and-letter-grades approach, standards-based approaches consider evidence of learning and the data it produces in different ways.”

When schools use a proficiency-based grading system, the marks earned do not translate directly to the 4.0 scale, which is criteria used for the ND scholarships. Thus, that is why we are here today to discuss changes to sections 15.1-21-02.4 and 15.1-21-02.5.

In both sections, the proposed language allows for students of school districts using proficiency based grading systems to qualify for either the Academic or the CTE scholarships.

8. a. (1) Obtained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale, or an equivalent course proficiency score if the student was enrolled in a school district participating in an approved innovative education program under section 15.1 - 06 - 08.2 and the school district obtained a waiver under section 15.1 - 06 - 08.1,

I believe with this additional language in these sections, our learners will be eligible for these scholarships.

I appreciate your time and consideration for HB 1135 and ask for a do pass recommendation. I stand for any questions you may have.