



1 HB1232 – Virtual Instruction

2 NDCEL Testimony in support – suggesting amendments

3 Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee – for the record, my name is
4 Aimee Copas and I am here today representing NDCEL and your school leaders. I'm here to
5 support the idea of having a modality for virtual instruction, however, NDCEL would like to offer
6 a more simplified approach to this process as our districts are asking for and need more flexibility
7 than this bill currently offers.

8 Our local school boards are currently charged with deciding the curriculum, calendar, and how
9 education should be approached in their community. We would ask that rather than having a
10 waiver process, our experiences in this area lend to a level of expertise that begets the concept of
11 allowing a district to decide whether or not their will offer remote instruction, and if they do,
12 locally determine how that may look in that local districts for those students who MIGHT
13 participate in that option. That local autonomy is critical to both have efficacy as well as to allow
14 the educators to have a determination process put into place whether that remote instruction is
15 appropriate for students who may be interested.

16 There are no areas in code that indicate that a school cannot offer remote instruction. Frankly – as
17 a state we've been in the business of remote education for quite some time. Please allow me to
18 remind you of the ND Center for Distance Education, our ITV consortiums, etc. Where we run
19 into a conundrum is the need for a clear pathway for the per-pupil payment to arrive at the school
20 accordingly.

21 NDCEL would respectfully suggest a few areas of code that the NDCEL Legislative Focus Group
22 have indicated to me might be adjusted to accommodate this thought process:

23 1) Adjust compulsory education law to reflect that a student should be enrolled WITH a
24 school rather than AT a school

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for all students in North Dakota.*

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- 1 2) Adjust the areas regarding formula payments to recognize students engaged in education
 - 2 with schools even when possibly learning outside of their brick and mortar buildings and
 - 3 while engaged in alternative modalities of instruction and learning.
 - 4 3) Take into consideration the open enrollment area of century code and ensure that we have
 - 5 protections in place to keep a student tied to resident districts while having a pathway to
 - 6 participate in remote instruction with another district if a tuition agreement is reached.
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- 7 Thank you for considering these potential adjustments to the bill. We would be happy to assist on
 - 8 the language for any amendment.

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