

**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



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



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**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)



PK-12 Education  
Strategic Vision Framework

**Our vision is that all students will graduate choice ready with the knowledge, skills and disposition to be successful**

**We will make progress toward this vision by achieving these long-term outcomes for students**

- Increase students who enter kindergarten prepared to learn
- Increase students who demonstrate reading proficiency in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Increase students who meet expected learning gains each year
- Increase students who engage in learning
- Increase students who graduate choice ready
- Reduce the disparity in achievement for students in poverty and for Native American students

**We will drive improvement on these outcomes through focused effort within these strategic themes**

- Quality early childhood education
- Support for safe and healthy behaviors
- Career awareness, exploration and development
- Quality education personnel
- Quality Student-centered Instruction

5/16/2019