



People for PSEO  
Expanding Opportunities

### **The Importance of Increasing Teachers of Color in MN**

Dear Members of House and Senate Education and Higher Education Committees:

While our primary role is to work with families, students, and education and state institutions to promote, defend and expand opportunities for Minnesota students via the Postsecondary Enrollment Options (“PSEO”) program, we also represent students from varying backgrounds and communities and as such feel the need to speak out when we see inequities.

Research shows that teachers of color help close achievement gaps for students of color and are highly rated by students of all races—a fact that is more relevant considering data released from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). NAEP results show that, “teachers of color boost the academic performance of students of color, including improved reading and math test scores, improved graduation rates, and increases in aspirations to attend college.”<sup>1</sup> Additionally, there is research highlighting that students of color are more likely to succeed in college when they have had teachers of color who serve as role models and support their attachment to school and learning. Students with racially diverse teachers also have fewer unexcused absences and are less likely to be chronically absent.

*People for PSEO has previously supported and championed the Increase Teachers of Color Act, and it is our intention that we will be supportive this year as well. Our policy committee met last week and once again recommended that the full board support the ITOCA and rejoin the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color.*

Any questions regarding our support should be directed to Aaliyah Hodge, President of People for PSEO [aaliyah.hodge@peopleforpseo.org](mailto:aaliyah.hodge@peopleforpseo.org).

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Aaliyah Hodge, People for PSEO President

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<sup>1</sup> Carver-Thomas, D. (2018). *Diversifying the teaching profession: How to recruit and retain teachers of color*. Palo Alto, CA: Learning Policy Institute.