

Support for HF 345

Dear Chair Pryor and Members of the House Education Policy Committee,

I respectfully submit this letter of support for HF 345, a pilot program to improve educational outcomes and accountability.

A strong workforce is predicated on a strong and effective education system that works for everyone. Minnesota has a long history of educational disparities between students of color and white students. This has led to other statewide racial disparities including post-secondary completion, wealth building, homeownership, and even health outcomes.

This bill would create a pilot program of new accountability systems for high schools that include a more relevant and robust approach to measurement. It goes beyond singular measures of proficiency and growth and includes other critical elements of success, such as basic needs support, disaggregation of demographic data, personalized education, culturally relevant curriculum, and opportunities for career exploration.

The approach prioritizes the engagement of students, families, and community leaders in redesigning a performance framework. This will lead to more relevant measures that are responsive to individual communities and better support students in their preparation for life upon graduation.

In a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated educational disparities, it is the right moment to dedicate more resources to young people and elevate creative strategies that can meet them where they are.

Sincerely,



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