

Madam Chair and Members of the House Education Policy Committee,

I am speaking in support of the expansion of school support personnel in Area Learning Centers across Minnesota to enhance participation in PSEO and concurrent enrollment programs. In my role at People for PSEO, I've worked with EL students, ALC students, and their high school advisors.

The first is that concurrent enrollment and PSEO have a track-proven policy record, both inside and outside of Minnesota, of closing racial and ethnic disparities in high school and college graduation rates - even among students that aren't traditionally considered to be ready for higher education. The academic phrase I'm most familiar with is that these dual enrollment programs improve the academic momentum of students - enrolling in these college courses changes students' perceptions of themselves, develops their skills in organization and time management, and much more.

This is actually an ideal time to encourage college enrollment. It can change a great deal when our students are taking their first college courses while receiving the benefits of a support structure and a community from their Area Learning Center.

Expanding school support personnel for dual enrollment students in Area Learning Centers is a forward-thinking strategy that I believe will deliver for the state as a whole. Thank you for considering this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Zeke Jackson, Executive Director at People for PSEO