

# Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals



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Representative Hodan Hassan  
Representative Ruth Richardson, Chair, Education Policy Committee  
Members of the House Education Policy Committee

Re: Support for House File 4

Dear Chair Richardson, Representative Hassan, and members of the Committee:

The Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals and the Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association represent two thousand principals throughout Minnesota. While the two organizations are separate, they are together in expressing their support for House File 4. This is an important piece of legislation addressing several important issues to all schools.

You are all well aware of the impact of the pandemic on our schools. Legislative support at both the state and federal level will make a difference in changing the direction of the harm this overwhelming event has caused our schools. House File 4 addresses several issues that we support.

Lost learning is one of the most significant tragedies of the pandemic. House File 4 is a beginning on the journey of credit recovery and additional instruction by allowing additional school year programming. We believe the language giving school districts significant flexibility will motivate districts to maximize their educational creativity in helping students. Principals throughout Minnesota have expressed deep concerns about students withdrawing, lost learning, grades and credits. This is an excellent start in addressing these issues.

Most certainly, truancy has not been a priority during the pandemic. However, we do believe that some guardrails are important to keeping students in school. We appreciate the caution exercised in this portions of the bill and look forward to working with you on this.

We strongly support the Trauma Informed School Incentive grants. Principals are committed to support students with adverse childhood experiences and to reduce suspension disparities. We do believe the language could be tightened to provide that grants are provided to the 39 districts that actually entered into settlement agreements with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. This would further clarify which districts have been “identified” as having large discipline disparities. These districts have begun this work, and the grant program would assist them in developing it further.

We believe that districts, principals and teachers should locally agree on the development and expenditure of grant funding here. We do not believe this should be “negotiated” as the bill

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suggests. It should be a process where teachers, principals and district administrators agree on the grant and submit it to the department and, after approval, effectively implement the programs.

We look forward to working with you as this bill moves through the process.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Aronson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roger Aronson

cc: David Adney, Executive Director, MASSP  
Jon Millerhagen, Executive Director, MESPA