



**Overview of HF3506 (Erickson)  
House Education Finance Committee  
Wednesday, March 30, 2022**

**Background Information**

HF3506 (Erickson) extends school counseling services to students enrolled in nonpublic schools or in an American Indian-controlled contract or grant school.

Under current law, students enrolled in nonpublic schools or an American Indian-controlled contract or grant school have access to school counseling services for grades 7-12. These services provide students with personal, social development and mental health services and provide referral assistance, when necessary. The resident school district provides either staff or contracts for the services and the school district receives reimbursement from the state.

We know the need mental health and other services is needed before grade 7. We also know the importance of early intervention. Furthermore, many students will attend both a public and nonpublic schools during the course of their education from grades K-12. This legislation helps ensure a continuum of care for students.

There are several organizations supporting this legislation including MINNDEPENDENT, Minnesota Catholic Conference, the Jewish Community Relations Council, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and other organizations as part of the Nonpublic Education Partners.



### MAIS Fast Facts

- Non-profit, independent school organization
- 18 schools: Pre-primary, elementary, middle & high schools
- MAIS schools serve over 9,000 Minnesota students and their families
- MAIS schools employ over 3,500 Minnesotans

## **2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

- Preserve the “independent” status of MAIS schools by opposing proposals that create onerous regulations or unfunded mandates, which have a negative impact on MAIS students, families, faculty and staff.
  - HF341/SF2307 – Student Data Privacy Act
- Support necessary state funding for nonpublic pupil aid (ie; textbooks, counseling, transportation, health services).
  - SF925/HF3506 – Counseling aid for students in grades K-6
- Serve as a resource to elected officials involved in E-12 education public policy.

MN Association of Independent Schools (MAIS) is a cohort of 18 independent schools in Minnesota that have achieved, or are in pursuit of, ISACS accreditation. Through the ISACS accreditation process, MAIS member schools hold themselves publicly accountable to accepted standards of quality education, responsible operations and on-going improvement. The mission of MAIS is to support and connect school leadership, faculty and staff while promoting and preserving education independence and choice for MN families and educators.

MAIS School	Location	District
Amos & Celia Heilicher Minneapolis Jewish Day School	St. Louis Park	46(A)
Arete Academy	St. Louis Park	46(A)
Breck School	Golden Valley	46(A)
City of Lakes Waldorf School	Minneapolis	62(A)
Friends School of Minnesota	St. Paul	66(A)
Groves Academy	Golden Valley	46(B)

Lake Country Montessori School	Minneapolis	62(B)
Many Rivers Montessori	Duluth	7(A)
Marshall School	Duluth	7(B)
Minnehaha Academy	Minneapolis	63(A)
Mounds Park Academy	St. Paul	43(B)
Providence Academy	Plymouth	44(A)
Saint Thomas Academy	Mendota Heights	52(B)
St. John's Preparatory School	Collegeville	13(B)
Shattuck-St. Mary's School	Faribault	24(B)
St. Paul Academy & Summit School	St. Paul	64(B)
The Blake School	Hopkins, Minneapolis, Wayzata	46(B),61(A) 33(A)
Visitation School	Mendota Heights	52(B)

MAIS member schools differ in many ways. They are secular, religious, single-gender, day and boarding schools, and some pedagogically based, but all support providing families with choice in education. Not only do MAIS schools save Minnesota tax dollars, which would otherwise have been spent in educating children in public schools, but MAIS students also represent Minnesota at myriad colleges and universities and often end up giving back to the state in a variety of leadership roles. Additionally, MAIS schools provide a number of vital jobs for adults living in Minnesota.

More about MAIS school communities:

- Total enrollment in MAIS schools for the 2019-2020 school year was over 9,000 students, saving taxpayers potentially \$100,000,000 that would be spent educating students in district schools.
- MAIS schools' combined annual budgets are over \$386.1 million dollars.
- MAIS schools employ over 3,400 full-time and part-time workers in Minnesota.
- MAIS schools provide health/retirement benefits to 1,400+ employees totaling over \$20 million dollars.
- MAIS schools provide over \$30 million dollars in need-based tuition assistance.

For more information about MAIS and its member schools, please contact Shep Harris at [sharris@fredlaw.com](mailto:sharris@fredlaw.com) or 612-492-7849.