

I oppose the additional test reporting requirements in the MN House DE Amendment (Education Policy Omnibus Bill):

Test reporting requirements proposed language:

“A letter of intent to continue to provide instruction must include a report to the superintendent with proof that the testing plan for the previous year was fulfilled as agreed upon, a copy of the official test scores, and information required in paragraph (a) for each student for the upcoming school year.”

This is contrary to the to the 2011 Homeschool Mandate Reduction bill which paved the way to simpler reporting requirements for Minnesota homeschoolers. At that time, the school districts also concluded that they did not want to receive and maintain unnecessary paperwork from homeschoolers - nor do homeschoolers need or want the additional paperwork. This would be a significant step backward for homeschooling freedom in Minnesota. It would impose unnecessary and burdensome requirements on Minnesota homeschoolers and districts.

After the decades that homeschooling has been legal in Minnesota, without reporting test results or in other way requiring certain curricula, it is clear through the studies done by NHERI and other organizations that homeschooled students are not deficient in their education:

- The home-educated typically score 15 to 30 percentile points above public-school students on standardized academic achievement tests. (The public school average is the 50th percentile; scores range from 1 to 99.) A 2015 study found Black homeschool students to be scoring 23 to 42 percentile points above Black public school students (Ray, 2015).
- 78% of peer-reviewed studies on academic achievement show homeschool students perform statistically significantly better than those in institutional schools (Ray, 2017).

These statistics are from this website: <https://www.nheri.org/research-facts-on-homeschooling/>

Please do not burden our state’s families and school districts with an unnecessary policy that only creates paperwork to store.

Thank you.

Linda Simonson

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(homeschool mother of one son, home-educated K-12)