

To Minnesota House K-12 Education Finance Committee:

From: Joe Nathan, PhD, former project director, National Governors Association (selected by Republican Gov Lamar Alexander & Democratic Gov Bill Clinton), public school educator 14 years; Senior Fellow Humphrey Institute, 22 years, Invited by 31 state Governors to testify, Parent, married 51 years, columnist, variety of newspapers, including USA Today, WSJ +

40 year discussion about money, control - should be about what's best for students & the state

1. Areas of agreement:

- * Should be an outside review – Task force might be unwieldy, OLA well respected
HF 4269 – OLA
HF 4270 – reimbursement – details should be discussed
- * PSEO Serves many purposes
 - * Saves taxpayers about \$15 million/year, saves families about \$60 million
 - * Helpful for many students – MDE shows PSEO & Concurrent enrollment
Students much more likely to graduate from high school & college –
NOT just because they are more inclined to college

2 Several issues for further discussion, including but not limited to

- * Closer collaboration and communication between high schools & colleges -
Some instances when students do not inform districts they left courses –
Mn State says success rate in 92% **HF 4232** – notification about student
student progress – good idea –
- * Full or part time; Full or part time PSEO – **prohibited by HF 4232** –
Youngster who was working part time & taking “dummy English, Math &
Social Studies” in AM – working in afternoon – found HS stifling – went
University and was on Dean’s list,
HF 4231 – removes flexibility of colleges to give students a chance if
don’t meet guidelines has to get recommendation from HS
Hispanic Am youngster bored in HS – earned AA degree at community
college, degree at UofM, full scholarship at MIT – internship this summer
- * Review of funding formula
- * On-line courses
- * Food & transportation
- * What happens when high schools don’t follow state law regarding notification
of students and families on their webpage about PSEO (207 of 321 traditional
district don’t comply
21 of 70 charter public don’t comply)
- * HS graduation requirements & PSEO courses
- * More power to districts as suggested by MDE’s proposed amendment

Minnesota Department of Education, High School class of 2019

| 4yr Graduation Rate | ALL STUDENTS | Rigorous Course-Taking Participants* | Difference | PSEO/CE Participants -- Funding Flag | Difference |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| | % of 4yr High School Graduates | % of 4yr High School Graduates | | % of 4yr High School Graduates | |
| All Students | 83.7% | 92.2% | 8.5% | 97.6% | 13.9% |
| <i>Race/Ethnicity</i> | | | | | |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 50.8% | 81.9% | 31.1% | 91.6% | 40.8% |
| Black of African American | 69.9% | 85.7% | 15.8% | 93.8% | 23.9% |
| Asian | 87.6% | 91.0% | 3.4% | 97.0% | 9.4% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 60.8% | 80.0% | 19.2% | 100.0% | 39.2% |
| Hispanic or Latino | 69.9% | 86.8% | 16.9% | 93.3% | 23.4% |
| Two or More Races | 72.3% | 86.7% | 14.4% | 95.0% | 22.7% |
| White | 88.7% | 93.9% | 5.2% | 98.4% | 9.7% |
| <i>Special Populations</i> | | | | | |
| English Learner | 57.0% | 76.1% | 19.1% | 79.7% | 22.7% |
| Not English Learner | 85.1% | 92.8% | 7.7% | 97.9% | 12.8% |
| | | | | | |
| Special Education | 61.1% | 75.5% | 14.4% | 90.1% | 29.0% |
| Not Special Education | 87.2% | 94.7% | 7.5% | 97.8% | 10.6% |
| | | | | | |
| Free or Reduced Price Meals (9-12) | 69.7% | 85.5% | 15.8% | 93.7% | 24.0% |
| Not Free or Reduced Price Meals (9-12) | 89.9% | 94.8% | 4.9% | 98.6% | 8.7% |

— Post Secondary Education Option (PSEO)

All students intending to enroll in PSEO coursework are REQUIRED by MN State Statute 124D.09, to inform the district of such intent by May 30th for Fall courses and October 30 for Spring courses, prior to enrollment. Students who fail to inform the district by the deadlines, may be responsible for the postsecondary costs.

This program allows high school juniors and seniors, who meet admission requirements, to attend an eligible post-secondary institution full or part-time. Students must have a qualifying GPA and, in some circumstances, take a college readiness assessment with score that meets the placement scores required for college level work. Online courses are strictly the responsibility of the student. Students taking courses through Central Lakes College (CLC) use the college's student portal, D2L BrightSpace.

This includes any equipment/materials that are required for the course (examples)

- Books
- Lab kits

Students who take PSEO online or in-person courses are 100% responsible for their own grades. The staff at ██████████ High School have no access to students' grades until after the semester is completed and grades are posted.

Students planning to participate in the PSEO program should take the following steps:

- Consult with a school counselor to make an informed decision.
- Receive approval from the ██████████ Principal
- Complete the same forms that are required for CIS students.
- Submit the PSEO Program Notice of Student Registration by the following deadlines:
 - Fall Semester: **May 30**
 - Spring Semester: **October 30**

* No mention of 10th grade
* Use of school computers
* Transportation funds
* Extracurricular participation

POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS (PSEO)

Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is a program that allows 10th-, 11th- and 12th-grade students to earn both high school and college credit while still in high school, through enrollment in and successful completion of college-level, nonsectarian courses at eligible participating postsecondary institutions. Most PSEO courses are offered on the campus of the postsecondary institution; some courses are offered online. Each participating college or university sets its own requirements for enrollment into the PSEO courses. Eleventh and 12th-grade students may take PSEO courses on a full- or part-time basis; 10th graders may take one career/technical PSEO course. If they earn at least a grade C in that class, they may take additional PSEO courses.

There is no charge to PSEO students for tuition, books or fees for items that are required to participate in a course. Students must meet the PSEO residency and eligibility requirements and abide by participation limits specified in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.09. Funds are available to help pay transportation expenses for qualifying students to participate in PSEO courses on college campuses. Schools must provide information to all students in grades 8-11 and their families by March 1, every year. Students must notify their school by May 30 if they want to participate in PSEO for the following school year. For current information about the PSEO program, <http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track> — Link does not work

* Use of school computers
* Extra-curricular participation
* Notification
* Credit weighting policy



March 23, 2026

Members of the House Education Finance Committee:

We are writing in strong support of HF4231, HF4232, HF4269, and HF4270, four bills that would bring important reforms to Minnesota's Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program. These bills represent a thoughtful approach to strengthening PSEO to meet the needs of students and address concerns raised by school districts regarding gaps in the program.

HF4231 provides consistent, transparent eligibility criteria for students to participate in the PSEO program. The lack of criteria determining whether a student is academically prepared for college-level coursework leaves both institutions and students without clear guidance, which can result in enrollments that set students up for failure. Importantly, the bill preserves flexibility. A student who does not meet the eligibility criteria may still enroll if their school submits a letter of recommendation, ensuring these standards serve as a floor, not a ceiling.

HF4232 addresses two additional challenges with the current statute: lack of communication from postsecondary institutions about student academic progress, and the potential for students to take on more college coursework than is appropriate while still enrolled in secondary school.

Under current law, secondary schools are notified when a student enrolls in or withdraws from a PSEO course, but they receive little or no information about how the student is performing throughout the term. As a result, school counselors, parents, and administrators are often unable to intervene when a student begins to struggle until long after any opportunity to provide support has passed. HF4232 closes this gap by requiring postsecondary institutions to notify a pupil's school at least twice per quarter or semester of the student's grades and available academic progress information. This requirement will allow school staff to connect with struggling students early.

By capping participation at 28 quarter credits or 16 semester credits per school year, HF4232 ensures that PSEO enriches a student's secondary education rather than replacing it. This limit provides a reasonable balance between providing motivated students with access to college-level learning and preserving a coherent, well-rounded secondary school experience.

HF4269 and HF4270 address additional gaps in the PSEO program by ensuring reimbursements reflect what students complete and call for a comprehensive evaluation needed to help fully understand the program's impact on students and school districts.

We appreciate the committee's focus on PSEO reform and believe these bills will make PSEO a more equitable, accountable, and effective program for everyone it serves.

Sincerely,

Minnesota Association of School Administrators
Association of Metropolitan School Districts
Minnesota School Boards Association
Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals
Minnesota Rural Education Association



Regarding HF4231 & HF4232 (House Education Finance– Proposed Changes to PSEO)

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Youth Council (MYC), a statewide body of student leaders representing diverse communities across all regions of Minnesota, respectfully submits this statement in opposition to HF4231 & HF4232.

These bills add language to the existing statute that would introduce further bureaucracy and demands on secondary and post-secondary institutions. It would also make it impossible for students to participate in full-time PSEO and more difficult for students to participate in PSEO programs and graduate from high school.

The Minnesota Youth Council supports the research done by People for PSEO and Catalyst for Systems Change (<https://www.peopleforpseo.org/research>) that has shown that PSEO promotes significant positive outcomes in students' education.

In the interest of protecting Career and Technical Education and student engagement, The Minnesota Youth Council strongly believes that limiting PSEO and creating barriers for inclusion of students participation in PSEO programs is not the path that Minnesota should follow.

We support further efforts to study this issue and discussion by community members, organizations, and members of the legislature. We do not support any changes to PSEO programs until that takes place.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
The Minnesota Youth Council
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