



February 26, 2026

Re: Support for HF3650, Establishing a student career pathways framework

Co-Chair Baker, Co-Chair Pinto, and Members of the House Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee,

We are writing in support of HF3650, which would create a statewide career pathways framework and provide a vital connection between students' high school learning experience, career exploration, and postsecondary options. Too often these interconnected areas are treated as separate entities, but in today's rapidly changing college and career landscape, students deserve comprehensive preparation for their life within and beyond the classroom. Moreover, the career pathway model has a track record of success, which can be expanded by ensuring early on ramps into viable career options.

Minnesota has ambitious goals for postsecondary attainment that we are failing to meet, and the more we can do to make high school relevant and engaging for all, the more we can advance progress toward this goal. The 2015 legislature set the goal that by 2025, 70% of Minnesotan adults would complete a postsecondary certificate or degree. We fell short of that goal, with glaring gaps by race and ethnic community. Just 29% of American Indian adults, 39% of Latino adults, 41% of Black adults in Minnesota have a qualifying credential.¹ For high school graduation, American Indian, Latino, and Black students are graduating at lower rates than both the statewide average and their white peers.²

To address these gaps, support Minnesota students both academically and in career exploration, and ensure that they can access a meaningful career with a living wage as adults, we need robust, cross-sector solutions. Provisions in this bill, such as coordination between the commissioners of education, higher education, and employment and economic development, reflect that need. Most importantly, the bill provides a student-centered approach to career pathway exploration, including infusion of a career development lens into personalized learning plans, that will empower young people with the information and support they need to thrive in adulthood no matter what postsecondary path they choose.

Thank you to Representative Mueller for bringing this bill forward. We hope the committee will support HF3650.

Matt Shaver
Senior Policy Director
mshaver@edalliesmn.org

¹ Minnesota Office of Higher Education, "Educational Attainment Goal 2025."
<https://ohe.mn.gov/reports/educational-attainment-goal-2025>

² Minnesota Report Card. Accessed February 24, 2026.