



# Windom Area Schools

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August 31, 2015

Re: Changes to Concurrent Enrollment Instructor Qualifications

HLC Committee on Qualified Instructors,

I request to be contacted on the guidelines and decision on instructor qualifications for concurrent enrollment classes. We offer concurrent enrollment classes at our high school in conjunction with three, 4-year accredited universities in Minnesota.

Our staff and administration is greatly concerned about the limited access our students may have to earning college credit through high school if these instructor qualifications are required. Currently, we are in compliance with three accredited universities and are able to offer our student population opportunities that many would not have access to otherwise. Our district population is close to 50% free and reduced priced meals and over 25% minority.

To our knowledge, we were the first Achievement and Integration/Incentive program in Minnesota to offer students a summer college psychology course opportunity in partnership with Southwest State University - Marshall. This course integrated students from three high schools regardless of race or income to show college success is possible regardless of background. This course was a resounding success; however our experienced teacher will not meet your future requirements. We will go from showing that college is possible for anyone to limiting this opportunity to the few who have resources in high school!

Locally, this rule change will eliminate 30+ high quality credits that meet the same standard as on-campus courses. These courses meet criteria set by Minnesota statutes and have been reviewed by the four-year university.

This decision, if followed through, will do nothing more than limit opportunities for students who need to see the possibilities of a college education. Our affluent families will use their PSEO option to drive 30-75 miles to a college campus to take the courses they choose. This will again create a larger achievement gap.

I strongly encourage you to consider other options as this will have a devastating impact on student opportunities. Please contact me at 507-831-6901 to discuss this policy change and the impact on students throughout rural school districts.

Best Regards,

Wayne Wormstadt  
Superintendent  
Windom Area School District