

Chokio-Alberta Public Schools
Independent School District No. 771

"Excellence in Academics, Athletics, and the Arts"

October 22, 2015

Senator Amy Klobuchar
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your service to Minnesota. In this day of goofy politics when common sense goes out the window, it is refreshing to hear you speak and to know you are working for the people of Minnesota.

My reason to write to you is regarding **CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT** in our public schools. Our students are able to take college courses with our highly qualified teachers at the high school and the students earn college credits to kick start their college education. The program has been working extremely well with no loss of quality instruction for the college course.

Recently, the colleges have been informing our teachers that they will no longer be illegible to teach our students concurrent courses. They will be required to have a master's degree with at least 18 graduate credits in the particular field they are teaching. A social studies teacher would need several degrees to teach a variety of common concurrent courses in social studies. For example 18 credits in psychology, 18 in sociology, 18 in geography. Our teachers have master's degrees but not necessarily in the particular discipline that they are teaching. Many of our teachers have earned master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction. These programs were taught by the area universities and improved instruction as a whole for our teachers.

If this change in emphasis by the accrediting authority is allowed to take place, our students in Minnesota will lose the ability to take college courses in most high schools. This will be a huge financial issue for our families. And will most likely decrease the number of students who complete their college degrees in four years or less.

The universities have little or no motivation to fight this change. The universities will have students coming to them with few or no college credits on the books. They will be able to put 300 students in the large halls and teach them psychology 101 with grad assistants and use the cash to fund their departments. These same universities will argue that they are able to give the students a better education because their teachers have the necessary credentials.

Please contact the **Federal Department of Education** and express our outrage for this change of direction, and convey the message that Minnesota's Concurrent Course Program currently

works well and we need to be able to continue to offer college credits to our students. We believe it is only pressure from you and the Federal Department of Education that might change the direction this rule will have on our students.

Sincerely

David Baukol
Superintendent

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