

2015 MSBA Legislative Resolution Form

Name/Title: Dr. Bruce Thomas
School district: ISD 318
Phone: Office (218) 327-5704
E-mail address: bthomas@isd318.org

This resolution was submitted for approval by Board member Pat Medure and supported by Board member Susan Zeige and passed without dissent at the ISD 318 School Board meeting on 9/21/15.

RESOLUTION STATEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED THAT MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO:

Continue the support of students in Concurrent Enrollment Courses in the Schools, by supporting current policy and practice used by Minnesota Universities and Colleges to credential high school teachers to teach courses and codify a state-wide workable policy to assure Minnesota students' success with dual-credit courses while attending high school.

BACKGROUND

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has developed a new policy that requires high school teachers to have a Masters Degree in the content area or a Masters Degree (other area) and 18 graduate credits in the subject area.

The State of Minnesota has a 30 year tradition of offering high school students the opportunity to earn college credits through multiple sources. Concurrent Enrollment Courses have done the following:

- FY 2013 23,583 students participated up 24% from FY 2009
- FY 2013 3,859 low income students participated up 41% from FY 2009
- FY 2013 2,368 minority students participated up 51% from FY 2009

The Minnesota Legislature has seen the value in Concurrent Enrollment Courses and has increased funding for students to access programming to \$8.6 million.


The Minnesota Legislature has created the World's Best Work Force with an emphasis in closing the achievement gap and also closes the opportunity gap for both minority and poverty students.

RATIONALE

School districts in cooperation with post-secondary institutions have invested significant time and resources in supporting Concurrent Enrollment Courses that bring opportunities to students to receive college credit within high school.

Action by HLC will close opportunities for all students to receive high quality college courses including students with minority and poverty backgrounds and thereby be in contradiction to the purposes of the Minnesota Legislature set forth in:

- Achievement and Integration
- World's Best Workforce


Superintendent Dr. Bruce Thomas