



March 1, 2021

The Honorable Roger Chamberlain  
Minnesota State Senate  
95 University Avenue West  
Minnesota Senate Building Room 3225  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Chamberlain and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

The Minnesota Business Partnership supports increased participation in post-secondary enrollment option (PSEO) programs by high school students. We are writing in support of SF 939, a bill to make it easier for students to access to information about PSEO programs and remove barriers to participation for students.

While participation in post-secondary enrollment programs has increased 25 percent since 2010, the percentage of students of color and low-income students participating in these programs remains lower than the state average. Closing this gap is important because of the connection between rigorous classes, like PSEO, and increased likelihood of high school graduation. Research has demonstrated that students who take dual credit courses are not only more likely to complete high school, but they are also more likely to complete postsecondary education. Furthermore, students who enter college with credits gained from PSEO and other programs also save money on college costs and recognize lower debt payments.

SF 939 makes several important improvements to Minnesota's post-secondary enrollment options program, including: expanding access to information about PSEO programs to Minnesota students and families; equalizing grade weighting policies for PSEO programs with other concurrent enrollment programs; ensuring that PSEO students can continue to be engaged in their high schools; and permitting 10<sup>th</sup> grade students to enroll in more than one career and technical education (CTE) course.

These improved provisions will help expand access to and participation in PSEO programs, particularly for students of color and low-income students, and in doing so improve postsecondary outcomes and close education gaps in Minnesota. We urge you to support SF 939 and thank Senator Nelson and others for championing this legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Amy Walsten'.

Education and Workforce Development Director  
Minnesota Business Partnership