



April 5, 2021

Dear Chair Chamberlain and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

Thank you for your work to craft an education omnibus bill (SF 960) that provides help to families, students, and schools as they recover from the pandemic-related education disruptions of the past two school years. Your bill also contains several important measures that will begin to move the needle in addressing education disparities, improving teacher diversity, and closing education achievement gaps.

The Minnesota Business Partnership is pleased to support, in particular, the following provisions:

- Removal of the reference to “balanced” reading instruction in statute.
- Enhancements to career and technical education (CTE) programs.
- Improvements to postsecondary enrollment options (PSEO) programs.
- Measures to improve charter school authorizer accountability.
- Teacher diversity initiatives:
  - Teacher mentoring
  - Increased funding for Grow Your Own programs
  - Funding for Black Men Teach programs
- Enhanced funding for Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading & Spelling (LETRS) Grants.
- Continued funding for the following programs:
  - Serve MN/Reading Corps
  - Math Corps
  - MN Principals Academy
- School choice initiatives.
- Improving attraction and retention of great teachers, especially teachers of color, by disallowing preference based on the teacher's seniority in hiring or dismissal.

As this bill continues to move forward, we would encourage Chair Chamberlain and committee members to consider enhanced funding for Education Partnership Programs and Early Learning Scholarships. These programs serve and support families and address critical needs, including access to quality early learning programs, and we hope that if/as funding targets change (or increase), you will consider increased funding for these important programs.

Again, thank you for your work for families and students in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

*Amy Walstien*

Education and Workforce Development Director  
Minnesota Business Partnership