



April 4, 2021

Senator Roger Chamberlain
Chair, Education Finance and Policy
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3225
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Re: Senate Education Omnibus Bill SF 960

Dear Senator Chamberlain:

We represent MESPA and MASSP, the elementary and secondary principal associations. The two associations represent over 2,000 school principals throughout Minnesota. We write to express our strong appreciation and support for several of the provisions in the Education Omnibus Bill, SF 960.

First, we believe the proposed changes in K-3 discipline as well as the provisions regarding the development of discipline policies are positive changes. The K-3 discipline changes will reduce the number of suspensions but retain the option to suspend students who pose "safety threats". This is very important to school safety and is an excellent modification of the initial proposal.

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We appreciate that the bill does not include the major changes contained in the Governor's Policy bill regarding student discipline and behavior. We appreciate that the additional mandates contained in the bill were not adopted as well. We have registered our strong objections to those provisions on multiple occasions and deeply appreciate your approach to those issues. Our membership stands ready to provide additional support on these issues as your bill goes through the process.

Our Secondary colleagues do have concerns about the changes to the Post-Secondary Education Options program. As you will recall from our public testimony, we would prefer that these not have been included in the bill.

We look forward working with you as the bill goes through the process.

Yours truly



Jon Millerhagen,
Executive Director
MESPA



Dave Adney
Executive Director
MASSP

cc: MASSP Board of Directors
MESPA Board of Directors