



March 8, 2021

Honorable Julia Coleman
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2101
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Coleman:

We appreciate you bringing attention to the rigorous course offerings Minnesota's public schools provide to students through SF1537. The growth of these offerings through programs like Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), college-led PSEO and Concurrent Enrollment college courses is a major success story showcasing Minnesota's innovation and creative spirit. Tracking the impact of these course offerings is extremely important, especially as we continue the work of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

However, SF1537 adds a new reporting requirement to the World Best Workforce (WBWF) strategic planning process, which raises two concerns for our organizations.

The first concern is the information sought is already available, by school district, through the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) report [Rigorous Course Taking: Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Concurrent Enrollment and Postsecondary Enrollment Options Programs Report to the Legislature.](#) Another approach to highlight this information would be to require the MDE to present this existing report annually to the House and Senate education committees. This would inform the members and allow them to analyze the existing information and encourage policies to increase the opportunity for these programs across all Minnesota schools.

Additionally, WBWF is intended to be a strategic planning *process* for schools and their communities. Existing data is very important for discussions at the district level, however, SF1537 appears to be another attempt by the legislature to make the WBWF an additional data and reporting process that it wasn't intended to be. An additional reporting requirement, would be considered "another unfunded state mandate." New mandates take district resources in staff time and/or additional training and moves away from the original intent of WBWF.

We appreciate your time and consideration of our concerns and suggestions. We welcome the opportunity to work with you.

Respectfully,

Association of Metropolitan School Districts
Minnesota Association of School Administrators

Minnesota Rural Education Association
Minnesota School Boards Association