



## Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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January 27, 2023

Dear Members of the Senate Education Policy Committee:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Association of Metropolitan School Districts, it is my pleasure to submit a letter in strong support of Willie Jett's confirmation as Commissioner of Education. Mr. Jett's experience as a coach, teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, superintendent, and university instructor makes him exceptionally well qualified to serve in this important role.

Commissioner Jett's former colleagues at the Association of Metropolitan School Districts have long admired his leadership and commitment to ensuring that all students have access to an equitable and excellent education. He is known as a collaborative leader who develops strong working relationships with all stakeholders.

Commissioner Jett's experience working in urban, suburban, and greater Minnesota school districts gives him a valuable statewide perspective and a strong understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing communities throughout our state.

His broad experience in our education system allows him to understand the impact policy and budget proposals would have on students, teachers, and other staff. In fact, I have already heard from colleagues that his background serving as the superintendent of a large school system has allowed him to hit the ground running. He has proactively reached out to stakeholder groups to ask for input and listen to their concerns and ideas. His ability to quickly but strategically make connections in our complex public education system will directly benefit our students and communities.

In short, Commissioner Jett is extremely well qualified to lead the Minnesota Department of Education and has our highest recommendation. Our students, parents, staff, and citizens will benefit from his leadership and his unwavering commitment building a world class education system that meets the needs of each and every student.

Sincerely,

Crystal Brakke  
Chair