



Great MN Schools  
729 N Washington Ave, Suite 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

March 15, 2023

Dear Chair Cwodzinski and members of the committee,

Thank you for championing education and the needs of our youngest Minnesotans. In my role as the CEO of Great MN Schools, I work alongside families, students, educators every day. At Great MN Schools, we believe that great schools matter and they change lives. We work with schools and community partners to ensure that they have the tools, training, and resources they need to provide students with the high-quality education they deserve.

SF 1273 answers a crucial need for curricula based in structured literacy and for teachers to receive the training and ongoing support they would need to implement such curriculum well. As introduced, this legislation ensures that kids would receive high quality literacy instruction grounded in structured literacy. Ensuring that every Minnesota student can read well at every grade is critical to closing opportunity gaps and ending internalized oppression.

As the legislative process unfolds and you and your colleagues work to balance various interests, I urge you to keep the language about structured literacy clear and hold the guidance on curriculum selection to that standard. I am concerned that amendments around definitions that lack structure and clear guidance could result in significantly watering down the standards for curricula and move away from the proven approach of structured literacy.

I also urge you to keep equity at the center. It has been scientifically proven that 95% of children can learn to read if given access to the science of reading. All students, regardless of learning needs or neurodiversity must have access to strong, science-based literacy instructions. Kids should be learning how to read in their classrooms, and the Read Act is the best way to ensure that their teachers have the best tools, training, and support to ensure that they do just that in a scientifically-proven way.

Thank you again for your leadership on this critically important work.

Sincerely,

Jen Stern  
CEO  
Great MN Schools

