

February 28, 2025

To: Chair Kunesh and members of the Senate Education Finance Committee

From: Seth Ryan, Director of Community Engagement, Brooklyn Center Community Schools

Chair Kunesh and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of Brooklyn Center Community Schools to express our strong support for SF 2007. This bill makes several critical policy changes that the Minnesota Full-Service Community Schools Network has identified as necessary to realize the spirit of the original bill passed by the Minnesota Legislature in 2023. Approximately 55 schools submitted applications for the most recent state-funded FSCS grant in early 2024 and 25 were awarded. Given that districts were limited to applying for only three schools, we believe there is a stronger level of interest across the state in this evidence-based student success strategy. This current bill proposes additional funding to support and sustain approximately 60 new and existing FSCS across Minnesota with the potential to support approximately 24,000 youth and their families.

Full-Service Community Schools combine evidence driven strategies that are designed to support both student and family success. FSCS sites offer community service partnerships, family and community engagement, enriched and extended learning, and foster collaborative and community-based leadership. Effective sites serve rural, suburban, and metro areas schools across Minnesota.

Brooklyn Center Community Schools serves a diverse, majority BIPOC population. The wrap-around resources provided through our Community Schools programming are critical for situating our students and their families in a place where they can focus on learning and become successful in school and in life. Schools are tasked with meeting a broad variety of needs in this day and age the Community Schools framework honors this reality and makes meeting those needs possible. The benefits of funding Community Schools go beyond academic success and will lead to stronger, healthier communities.

Thank you for your consideration and support for Full-Service Community Schools, we urge you to pass SF 2007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Seth Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "R".

Seth Ryan

Director of Community Engagement

Brooklyn Center Community Schools