



February 27, 2025

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

From: Zach Pruitt, Faribault Public Schools Community Education Director

Chair Kunesh and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of Faribault Public Schools Community Education 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 an even 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 & community engagement, enriched & extended learning, and collaborative and community-based leadership. Effective sites serve rural, suburban, and metro areas schools across Minnesota.

Faribault Public Schools is proud to support six full-service community schools. Collectively, they provide wraparound resources and support to over 3,000 youth. Through our community school efforts, we: provide free afterschool programming to over 2,200 youth each year; offer in-school dental, mental health, and chemical health services; secure free school supplies for more than 2,100 students; and serve more than 45,000 evening and summer meals to students from low-income households. In a district where 72% of our students qualify for federal free/reduce lunch, the Full-Service Community School initiative is a critical strategy in supporting our students and families.

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

Sincerely,

Zach Pruitt

Community Education & Engagement Director

zpruitt@faribault.k12.mn.us