

## Lincoln International High School



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02/27/2025

To: Chair Kunesch and Members of the Senate Education Finance Committee

From: Lana Eid

Community School Coordinator, Lincoln International High School

Chair Kunesch and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of Lincoln International High School to express our strong support for SF 2007. This bill makes several critical policy changes that the Minnesota Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) 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 only 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 for 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 area schools across Minnesota.

At Lincoln International High School, we have seen firsthand how the FSCS model transforms educational outcomes and strengthens our community. As a school serving a diverse student body where 90% of students are English learners and nearly all come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds FSCS has allowed us to integrate essential wraparound services that directly impact student success.

Through FSCS, we have expanded academic interventions, including after-school tutoring, individualized learning support, and enrichment programs tailored to the needs of our multilingual learners. These initiatives have directly contributed to increased student engagement, improved attendance, and higher academic achievement.

In addition to academic support, FSCS has strengthened access to critical mental health and social services. Many of our students and families face significant challenges outside of school, including housing instability, food insecurity, and trauma. Through strategic partnerships with local organizations, we have been able to provide trauma-informed counseling, mental health resources, and family support services that help create a more stable and supportive learning environment.

Family and community engagement have also been at the core of our FSCS work. We have implemented multilingual family workshops, parent leadership programs, and direct outreach initiatives that bridge the gap between school and home. By fostering trust and collaboration with families, we have seen greater parental involvement in education and an overall stronger sense of community.

Even during a difficult budget year when only a few bills with funding will be passed, we urge the Legislature to prioritize FSCS funding because it is a proven, cost-effective strategy for closing opportunity gaps and supporting student success. The return on investment is clear: FSCS strengthens communities, improves academic outcomes, and ensures that all students regardless of background have the resources they need to thrive.

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

Sincerely,

Lana Eid  
Community School Coordinator, Lincoln International High School