



March 12, 2025

Members of the Senate Education Finance committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs (MAAP), an organization that advocates for, supports and promotes alternative learning programs in Minnesota, we write to express our support for SF 1275 (Baldon).

We have almost 500 members from over 450 alternative learning programs around the state. Our programs strive to meet the needs of the nearly 160,000 Minnesota students who struggle in traditional classrooms and receive alternative education services. These students represent nearly 18% of all Minnesota public school students.

Extended time revenue is an invaluable resource for state-approved alternative programs – the programs in which our members teach. At-risk students enter alternative programs deficient in credit and often with emotional and mental health problems, all of which require individualized teaching and addressing negative, sometimes dangerous, attitudes. Providing alternative programming for students also requires extra time and skill, which extended time revenue helps support. All Minnesota students should have access to the programming they need to support their educational goals, make up for learning loss and access the tools they need to be successful – and extended time revenue is one tool that assists students in this journey.

SF 1275 is a great first step to address the funding deficit that alternative programs are facing by linking extended time revenue to increases in the general education formula. Our members are doing more with less, and providing this increased funding will help them support at-risk students with the quality education, time and attention they need to be successful.

Thank you for your service to our state. We greatly appreciate the time this committee is dedicating to considering SF 1275, which we believe could have a positive impact on the success of students in alternative programs. Please consider our organization a resource as you work to put together an education budget that prioritizes students, especially those with nontraditional needs.

Sincerely,

Mark Jansen
President-elect, Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs

Chris Thompson
Legislative Chair, Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs