



March 30, 2025

Minnesota Senate Education Finance Committee

Dear Chair Kunesch,

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Independent Schools (MAIS), we are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed elimination of nonpublic pupil aid and transportation aid in MN SF2255. This legislation directly contradicts long-standing Minnesota policy that ensures equitable access to educational benefits for all students, including those attending nonpublic schools.

Minnesota has a well-established history of supporting all students, regardless of their school choice. According to **Minnesota Statutes, Sections 123B.40 - 123B.48**, nonpublic pupil aid has provided essential educational resources such as textbooks, nursing, and counseling support services. The intent of these statutes has been to ensure that every pupil in Minnesota shares equitably in educational benefits, reinforcing the state's commitment to parental choice in education.

Eliminating nonpublic pupil aid and transportation assistance would place an undue burden on thousands of families who rely on these critical services. It would create an inequitable education system, limiting educational opportunities and undermining the fundamental right of parents to choose the best educational environment for their children.

These cuts would negatively impact nonpublic school students and families and also strain the public school sector. For example, MAIS member Groves Academy works closely with public schools to support students who struggle due to learning differences and needs. As part of its mission to transform lives, Groves Academy helps students transition back to the general education setting, typically within a student's public school district.

To facilitate these transitions, Groves Academy and the Groves Learning Organization provide neuropsychological educational evaluations and, when necessary, speech and language evaluations. These evaluations require considerable time and financial investment, relieving public schools of the responsibility to conduct these assessments for students residing in their districts. Each evaluation process, which includes gathering teacher input, preparing paperwork, and attending Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings, takes approximately 30 hours per student. Each year, Groves Academy partners with 36 districts and charter schools across the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota to ensure a smooth transition for students. Without nonpublic pupil aid, these services would be at risk, potentially increasing the financial and administrative burden on public school districts.

We urge you to oppose any efforts to remove these vital educational supports. Instead, we encourage the legislature to uphold Minnesota's long-standing commitment to equity in education by preserving nonpublic pupil aid and transportation aid.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We appreciate your dedication to serving all Minnesota students and ensuring that every child receives the educational resources they need to succeed.

Sincerely,

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