



WRENSHALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent-Jeff Pesta, Ed.D
Principal-Michelle Blanchard

Independent School District #100
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Subject: SF2255 –District isd100 – Opposition to Funding Cuts for STARBASE

4/8/25

To Whom it May Concern,

I understand you have many pressing matters to attend to, but I must bring your attention to an urgent issue that could have significant consequences for STEM education in our state.

Today, we learned that the State Education Finance Committee removed all funding for STARBASE in their Delete All Amendment to SF2255. As you may know, STARBASE has been an invaluable resource for schools, providing STEM kits and onsite programs to students across the state. The typical \$500,000 per year allocation is used to support these efforts, including expanding staffing and providing kits to 438 schools and reaching 35,000 students, including our small rural school in northern Minnesota. This is a trip that our 5th grade students look forward to every year.

The loss of this funding would severely impact the availability of STEM kits that our school, already lacking resources, rely on to enhance our science and technology curriculum. Without these kits, our students will lose access to important educational resources, and the quality of onsite programming would be significantly reduced.

Given the critical role STARBASE plays in fostering the next generation of STEM professionals, I urge you to oppose the amendments to SF2255 that would cut funding for this essential program. The importance of STEM education cannot be overstated, and STARBASE is an integral part of our state's efforts to prepare students for success in these fields.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. I appreciate your time and support in ensuring that our students continue to have access to these invaluable educational opportunities.

Sincerely,
Michelle Blanchard
School Principal
Wrenshall High School
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A small school where WE cultivate big futures.

