



Proposed Resolution Submission Form

Full name of School District Independent School District 200, Hastings Public Schools.

Full name of individual submitting for the school board Matt Bruns

Title/Position of individual submitting for the school board Director

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- This resolution is submitted with approval by the school board.**
Please provide the date on which the authoring school board approved submission of this resolution. 09/25/2024*

BE IT RESOLVED, MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO (please clearly and concisely state the action you would like the legislature to take):

The Minnesota State Legislature should limit seat time requirements for students to earn credits necessary for graduation to allow districts to be innovative and purposeful in meeting student needs.

DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM:

State statute currently makes requirements on how much 'seat-time' a student must dedicate in a learning environment to earn the requisite credits.

EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS A PROBLEM:

Seat-time requirements are not aligned to best practices in grading - competency-based grading - and prove themselves a barrier when it comes to districts designing innovative programming.

PROVIDE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

In Minnesota, the state statute that outlines seat time requirements for students to earn credits is found in Minnesota Statutes, Section 120A.22. This section sets forth the requirements for school attendance and credits, specifying that students must be present for a certain amount of instructional time to earn credits for their courses.

Critics of the seat time requirements argue that this approach can be problematic for several reasons:

1. **Inflexibility:** Traditional seat time requirements can be rigid and may not accommodate diverse learning styles or paces. Students who learn more quickly or need more time might be disadvantaged by a system that values physical presence over demonstrated mastery of content.
2. **Inequity:** Seat time requirements can disproportionately affect students with special needs or those facing personal challenges, such as health issues or family responsibilities. These students might struggle to meet attendance requirements even if they are capable of mastering the material.
3. **Focus on Attendance Over Learning:** The emphasis on seat time can shift the focus from learning outcomes to merely being present in class. This can lead to a situation where students are rewarded for attendance rather than actual achievement or comprehension.
4. **Limited Flexibility for Innovative Learning Models:** Seat time requirements can hinder the adoption of more flexible or innovative educational models, such as online learning or competency-based education, which may offer more personalized and effective learning experiences for students.

Advocates for reform often suggest shifting towards a competency-based education system, where students advance based on their demonstration of knowledge and skills rather than their time spent in class. This approach could potentially address some of the issues associated with traditional seat time requirements.

For MSBA Staff Use Only:

- Date Received:** Click or tap to enter a date.
- File Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.
- Category:** Choose an item.
- Recommendation:** Choose an item.
- Present Position(s):** Click or tap here to enter text.