



June 10, 2010

Theresa A. Meyers  
Superintendent  
Northland Community Schools  
316 Main Street East, Room 200  
Remer, Minnesota 56672

Dear Superintendent Meyers:

Thank you for submitting an application for Northland Community Schools Four-Day Week, dated May 4, 2010, as a proposed Flexible Learning Year Program under Minnesota Statutes section 124D.12.

Your request for Flexible Learning Year status for the 2010-11 school year is denied for the following reasons.

Areas of concern with the denied proposal are:

- Inconsistencies in estimated savings for the Four-Day week. Power Point presentations to community groups list higher savings than revised savings estimates detailed elsewhere in the Flexible Learning Year Application.
- The superintendent and board chair initials are missing from the Assurances of Compliance Document for the legal requirement that: "District assures that the board has negotiated with all school staff covered under the Public Employment Labor Relations Act." Instead of initialing, the district indicated that this is "in process." An e-mail from the district to the Department of Education on May 27 indicated that the district is still in a negotiation phase with the Minnesota School Employees Association.
- The Flexible Learning Year application indicates a broad desire to "maintain or increase" academic achievement. It also expresses a desire to see improvements in staff attendance, failure rates and behavior data. However, the application lacks the specificity necessary to know how the district will measure progress or interpret the data meaningfully as it relates to the Four-Day Week.

The Northland Community Schools Flexible Learning Year Application has components that hold merit and can be carried forward into a strengthened application for future school years, should your school district choose to reapply. If you choose to reapply or would like to discuss your application further, contact Cindy Jackson, the School Choice Ombudsman in the School Improvement Division, at 651-582-8572 or e-mail [cindy.s.jackson@state.mn.us](mailto:cindy.s.jackson@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alice Seagren". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Alice Seagren  
Commissioner

Enclosure: Flexible Learning Year Application Review