

News Release

Education Information Services ■ 125 South Webster Street ■ P.O. Box 7841 ■ Madison, WI 53707-7841 ■ (608) 266-3559

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Contact: Patrick Gasper, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

Wisconsin wins funding for new assessment system

Wisconsin among governing states for 31-state SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers issued a statement today on news from the U.S. Department of Education that the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium will receive approximately \$160 million in Race to the Top (RTTT) assessment funding to develop the next generation of assessments needed to transform education. Wisconsin is among 31 states in the consortium, and as a governing state, Department of Public Instruction staff actively worked on the application for the competitive funding. The SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium is one of two consortia that received RTTT assessment funding.

“We have been working with the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium since December 2009 to develop a comprehensive assessment system that will take advantage of computer adaptive technology and will provide better, more timely information that directly supports teaching and learning.

“This funding will allow the consortium to improve on the best components of the member states’ existing assessments and implement an online reporting system that will provide educators ready access to information that can improve classroom instruction and student achievement.

“As a governing member of the consortium, Wisconsin is in a key role to ensure the new assessments measure student progress toward college and career readiness in English language arts and mathematics. The assessments will be aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Assessments for grades three through eight and grade 11 will cover the full range of standards and be ready by the 2014-15 school year. The consortium also will develop optional interim and formative assessments that will help teachers identify specific student needs so they can provide additional instruction to those who struggle and additional challenges to those who can achieve more.

“The SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium is focused on developing comprehensive assessments that help students achieve the knowledge and skills needed for the workforce or further education.”

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NOTE: This statement is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2010_113.pdf.