Every Child a Graduate
College and Career Ready

Agenda 2017

Wisconsin is advancing education reforms to ensure every child graduates ready for further education and the workplace. These reforms build on our nation-leading graduation rates, college entrance exam scores, and more students taking rigorous college-level courses. On this foundation, we are implementing new standards and higher expectations for students and their schools.

Setting goals and enacting strong reforms aim to prepare all children to graduate ready for future success and technological innovation. Making this a reality means facing serious issues. *We must close graduation and achievement gaps; reduce the number of students who drop out of school; and fix the broken school finance system.* Tackling these difficult issues and investing in public education help build our workforce and middle class prosperity.

"Every child must graduate ready for further education and the workforce. We must align our efforts so all our students are prepared to succeed in college or a career."

– State Superintendent Tony Evers

By 2017, we need to reach target goals that prepare our students for success in further education and career:

- ✓ Further increase graduation rate from 85.7 percent to 92 percent.
- ✓ Increase career and college readiness from 32 percent to 67 percent.
- ✓ Close graduation and career and college readiness gaps by 50 percent.
- ✓ Increase the percentage of students scoring proficient in third-grade reading and eighth-grade mathematics.
- ✓ Adopt the Fair Funding for Our Future plan to make school finance more equitable and transparent.

To achieve these goals and advance education for all students, we must focus around four simple, but powerful areas:

Standards and Instruction: *What and how should kids learn?*

Assessments and Data Systems: *How do we know if they learned it?*

School and Educator Effectiveness: *How do we ensure kids have highly effective teachers and schools?*

School Finance Reform: *How should we pay for schools?*

Public education in Wisconsin is one of our great economic and social strengths. This agenda provides direct actions to meet aggressive but achievable goals to improve student learning, promote safe and healthy school environments, and increase global competitiveness. Transforming our education system so that every child is a graduate ready for college and career will make a lasting impact and strengthen prosperity for all in Wisconsin.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Tony Evers, PhD, State Superintendent

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Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Standards and Instruction

- Implement *internationally benchmarked academic standards* to ensure students are globally competitive;
- Expand systems that promote *early interventions* in reading and mathematics, such as Response to Intervention and *early literacy screening in kindergarten*;
- Expand *innovative charter schools*;
- Use *digital learning to* change and *enhance instruction;* and
- Expand high school programs for *dual enrollment earning college credit* and *specific career skills* through industry certifications and youth apprenticeships.

Assessments and Data Systems

- Change state assessment proficiency levels, to reflect the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), providing *higher expectations for students* that reflect career and college readiness;
- Implement an online, adaptive *next generation assessment* system that *gauges student progress throughout the year,* and provides real-time data to teachers and parents;
- *Measure student college and career readiness* from the end of middle school through high school using the EXPLORE/PLAN/ACT tests and WorkKeys; and
- Launch *statewide student information and data systems* that support districts, streamline operations, and expand research.

School and Educator Effectiveness

- Replace broken No Child Left Behind requirements with a *new state accountability and support system* that includes all publicly funded schools, relies on multiple measures of student and school performance and growth, and focuses on college and career readiness;
- Replicate best practices from *high-performing schools* and provide direction, technical assistance, and support to *improve the lowest-performing schools*;
- Require Milwaukee Public Schools under corrective action to adopt a *uniform curriculum in reading and math,* implement *data-driven student intervention* systems, and ensure all *teachers are highly qualified*; and
- Advance *a fair and robust educator evaluation system* that incorporates student achievement data.

School Finance Reform

- Guarantee a *minimum amount of state aid* for every student;
- Incorporate a *poverty factor* into the formula, accounting for families' ability to pay—not just property value;
- Establish *sustainability* in state funding, while strengthening rural, declining enrollment, and negatively aided districts; and
- Redirect the school levy tax credit directly into school aids, *increasing transparency* and state support for classroom learning.