



State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

December 2006

Dear Colleague:

I am happy to share with you *Wisconsin's Voice: Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act*. This document, compiled from information shared at various feedback and input sessions held throughout this past year, reflects Wisconsin's voice—your thoughts, concerns, and ideas related to the impending reauthorization of ESEA in 2007. Five major areas of the law—testing, accountability, identification and sanctions, teacher quality, and data collection/reporting—were the subject of rich, passionate conversation and testimony shared by more than 50 Wisconsin educational organizations, committees, advisory councils, other partners, and numerous individuals from across our state.

Wisconsin's Voice contains themes for reauthorization that emerged as a result of the input of this broad cross section of our education community. I applaud all individuals who embraced this opportunity to share their feelings about what's working, what's challenging, and what changes are necessary to ensure the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) works for all Wisconsin children.

In my role as President of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and Chair of the Council's ESEA Reauthorization Task Force, I have begun to share Wisconsin's voice, and will continue to do so as the reauthorization process continues. The task force has already agreed on a set of policy statements and we will be working on specific changes in the law over the next several months.

It is clear that Wisconsin's education community is committed to the fundamental principles of NCLB, but believes that the reauthorization process must address its weaknesses in order to truly leave no child behind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Burmaster".

Elizabeth Burmaster
State Superintendent

EB/mjp

Enclosure