

Foreword

The Department of Public Instruction is committed to ensuring that all Wisconsin students achieve at high levels. We have incredibly talented educators who are committed to creating schools that meet the diverse needs of our students. Many factors affect the success of our classrooms, schools, and districts, and it is important that all practitioners and stakeholders take a step back and critically reflect on current systems and structures that support the mission of our schools and districts to ensure that they are functioning as effectively as possible.



The *Characteristics of Successful Districts* provides districts with a tool to examine their current practices in five key areas. It allows districts to identify and build on their strengths, and address areas that need to be improved. Just as our teachers provide support and guidance to the students in the classroom, districts must offer focused support to each of their schools. These rubrics provide a framework for continuous data gathering and reflection that leads to collaboration and improved strategies to meet the needs of all students. We must continue working to ensure that every child graduates with the knowledge and skills needed for success in the workforce or if they pursue further education.