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## Walker Proposes New Statewide, School Accountability System

### Public Schools Could Be Measured By New Standards

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**MADISON, Wis.** -- Gov. Scott Walker and State Superintendent Tony Evers are proposing a new way to hold schools accountable.

Walker said he considers the new system as a step forward and one to replace the federal No Child Left Behind standards. The new standards would identify the high-performing schools and replicate their practices at lower-performing schools. All publicly funded schools, including charter schools and choice, will be measured under the same standards.

Although the governor said he sees a lot of promise in the program, some school officials said that they're skeptical.

"The process is one that we are gonna have to look at very carefully to make sure that it is collaborative and that the voice of our members will really be heard if we participate," Wisconsin Education Association Council President Mary Bell said.

"It means more than just one high stakes test, it means more than just core competencies in particular areas, but also looking at are your students are the core level they need to be at. Are the students advancing? Are there other criteria involved in the making of a successful school?" Walker said.

Bell said that the effort may be worthwhile, but teachers don't trust Walker given his proposal taking away nearly all their collective bargaining rights.

Walker said having WEAC's participation "doesn't mean they have to support everything I have in the past or will be in the future," but added that the effort to create the new accountability system will be better off the more inclusive it is.

Walker is leading the effort along with Evers, who also opposed his union plan.

"The reason this is important is that we have an obligation as a state to take those practices in the high-performing schools and spread them across the state and to other schools. And at the opposite end, we have limited resources and so we need to target those low-performing schools so we can provide the support," said Evers.

Wisconsin Senate and Assembly and Education committee and members of schools associations, such as WEAC, have been invited to be part of the design team.

WEAC members are still discussing whether they should join.

Walker and Evers said that they hope a first version is ready by next spring.

The system needs approval from the U.S. Department of Education.

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