



**Wisconsin Institute of  
Certified Public Accountants**

December 2011

Dear Wisconsin high schools,

The Wisconsin Institute of CPAs and its 8,000 members sincerely appreciate your including accounting or considering to include accounting in your school's curriculum.

High school accounting is an important class for all students. It allows students to explore the potential of an accounting career, prepares them for challenging college level accounting courses and teaches important life skills.

Over the years, we have developed relationships with many high school business teachers across the state. We greatly value them for their extremely positive impact on tomorrow's business leaders. In a recent survey of college accounting students, nearly 50 percent said a high school teacher influenced them in choosing accounting as their major.

CPAs strongly believe that high school accounting provides an important life skill. It teaches students how to track expenses, pay bills, save money for the future and the importance of keeping good records.

Accounting graduates continue to be in high demand. According to the United States Department of Labor, employment of accountants is expected to grow 22 percent by 2018, adding 279,400 more positions to the 1.29 million already-existing jobs.

Please see the attached fact sheet and share it with teachers, administrators, school boards and parents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis F. Tomorsky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "D" and "T".

Dennis Tomorsky, CPA, J.D.  
Chief Executive Officer  
WICPA



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## **FACTS ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL ACCOUNTING**

High school accounting teaches students lifelong skills, exposes them to the possibility of a career in accounting and prepares them for college accounting.

### **Accounting is a life skill**

- Accounting impacts personal lives as well as careers.
- Knowledge of accounting helps individuals budget and manage their personal finances.
- High school accounting gives the basic understanding of how any entity, whether a corporation, government, or a not-for-profit, operates.
- Accounting is the language of business.
- Accounting is the foundation for entrepreneurs, investors, managers, leaders and for everyone to better understand their own personal tax opportunities.

### **Accounting career outlook**

- According to the United States Department of Labor, employment of accountants is expected to grow 22 percent by 2018, adding 279,400 more positions to the 1.29 million already-existing accounting jobs.
- Nearly 90 percent of all accounting firms forecasted the same or more hiring of new accounting graduates for 2011 compared to 2010.
- As business needs become more complex with new government regulations, new accounting standards and globalization, the demand for accountants is increasing.
- Certified Public Accountants are in high demand and are paid well.

### **A 2011 survey of college students concluded:**

- Fifty percent of students chose accounting as their college major while still in high school.
- High school teachers and parents had the greatest influence in their choice of accounting.
- High school accounting was helpful in preparing them for college.
- They wished they would have or could have taken MORE HIGH SCHOOL ACCOUNTING!

**For more information on the accounting career, visit [www.StartHereGoPlaces.com](http://www.StartHereGoPlaces.com)  
and [www.wicpa.org](http://www.wicpa.org).**