

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

Contact: Patrick Gasper, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

DPI-NR 2010-75 B

Wisconsin adopts Common Core State Standards

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers formally adopted the newly released Common Core State Standards for English language arts and mathematics today for Wisconsin.

“Wisconsin is ready to make the Common Core State Standards its academic standards for curriculum, instruction, and assessment,” Evers said. “These standards are aligned with college and career expectations, will ensure academic consistency throughout the state and across other states that adopt them, and have been benchmarked against international standards from high-performing countries.”

Evers exercised his authority under Article X of the Wisconsin Constitution to adopt the standards. Adoption by the state superintendent is referenced in the state’s Race to the Top application which was sent to the U.S. Department of Education on Tuesday.

The standards for English language arts and mathematics, which became public today (June 2), define the knowledge and skills students should have during their elementary and secondary school education so they are prepared to compete and succeed in the global economy. Wisconsin is a partner state in the Common Core State Standards Initiative and has had on-going involvement in shaping the standards as they were developed, reviewing them, and providing feedback to the project writers.

The process to implement the Common Core State Standards so they improve student achievement requires understanding the content of the standards, developing curriculum that reflects the standards, and then providing resources for teachers to develop lesson plans to teach those standards. The Department of Public Instruction will partner with school districts, universities, and education organizations to provide curriculum models and on-line resources to transition to the Common Core State Standards. Additionally, Wisconsin will work with the SMARTER/Balanced Assessment Consortium to develop high-quality, common assessments that are connected to classroom instruction.

“These English language arts and mathematics standards will serve as a solid foundation to ensure every child is a graduate ready for the workforce or postsecondary studies,” Evers said. “Higher student achievement is

(more)

driven by rigorous standards, high-quality curriculum, and assessments that provide meaningful feedback to improve instruction.”

Wisconsin was an early state in recognizing the need for standards that prepared students for workforce and college expectations. In spring of 2007, business leaders shared their expectations for students who would be graduating in five to 10 years. The state then worked with Achieve’s American Diploma Project and with the Partnership for 21st Century Skills to revise its standards for English language arts and mathematics. Once the Common Core State Standards Initiative was announced, Wisconsin expanded its focus to work with participating states and territories, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, and the Council of Chief State School Officers to develop the Common Core State Standards.

###

NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2010_75.pdf. Additional information about the Common Core State Standards Initiative is available at <http://www.corestandards.org>.