

**Assembly Committee on Government Accountability & Oversight
June 7, 2017**

**Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Testimony in For Information Only on Assembly Bill 300**

Representative Hutton and members of the committee, thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill (AB) 300. We appreciate Rep. Thiesfeldt's consultation on this bill, and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is here today to recommend a modification and provide testimony for information only.

AB 300 would require every public, charter, and choice school to annually provide enrolled families with specified information about the pupil examinations administered in the school. This is similar to last session's 2015 AB 293/SB 193, which passed in committee, but were not adopted by either house of the legislature.

Subsequent to last session, Congress adopted the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which included expanding reporting requirements for districts around pupil assessments.

Recommendation: Modify AB 300 to align with revised federal assessment reporting requirements to ensure uniform reporting for all publicly-funded schools.

Background

Under current law s. 118.30 (1m) (d), schools must publish information about the examinations administered to pupils in the school district on their website. This requirement applies to those examinations required under s. 118.30, but it does not detail what specific information a school district must publish.

Legislative Proposal

AB 300 will increase assessment reporting requirements, including providing a written summary containing the following information:

- Each examination required under state or federal law that will be administered to pupils, except an examination that is required for high school graduation.
- Each examination required by the school board, operator, governing body, or managing entity to assess pupil, school, or school district performance that will be administered to

pupils, **except** an examination that counts toward a grade or score for a class or that is required for high school graduation.

Thus, the bill would exclude the state civics exam.

Other required information includes:

- The grade level to which each examination identified will be administered.
- The expected date on which each examination identified will be administered.
- The duration of each examination.
- The process used to determine an appropriate alternative in-school activity for pupils who have been excused from taking an examination.
- The school's policies and procedures regarding opting a pupil out of any examination.
- The purpose of administering each examination and a description of how the school will use data derived from each identified examination.

Federal ESSA Reporting (*emphasis added*)

<http://legcounsel.house.gov/Comps/Elementary%20And%20Secondary%20Education%20Act%20Of%201965.pdf> (see page 56)

From SEC. 1112, 20 U.S.C. 6312 (e)(2). LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PLANS.

(2) TESTING TRANSPARENCY.— (A) IN GENERAL.—At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part that the **parents may request**, and the local educational agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), **information regarding any State or local educational agency policy** regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by section 1111(b)(2) and by the State or local educational agency, **which shall include a policy, procedure, or parental right to opt the child out of such assessment, where applicable.**

(B) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—Subject to subparagraph (C), each local educational agency that receives funds under this part **shall make widely available through public means** (including by posting in a clear and easily accessible manner on the local educational agency's website and, where practicable, on the website of each school served by the local educational agency) for each grade served by the local educational agency, information on each assessment required by the State to comply with section 1111, other assessments required by the State, **and where such information is available and feasible to report, assessments required districtwide by the local educational agency, including—**

- (i) the subject matter assessed;
- (ii) the purpose for which the assessment is designed and used;
- (iii) the source of the requirement for the assessment; and
- (iv) where such information is available—

- (i) the amount of time students will spend taking the assessment, and the schedule for the assessment; and**
- (ii) the time and format for disseminating results.**

(C) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY THAT DOES NOT OPERATE A WEBSITE.—In the case of a local educational agency that does not operate a website, such local educational agency shall determine how to make the information described in subparagraph (A) widely available, such as through distribution of that information to the media, through public agencies, or directly to parents.