

Assembly Committee on Education
March 13, 2014

Department of Public Instruction
Testimony on 2013 Assembly Bill 777

I want to thank Representative Kestell and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 777 (AB 777). My name is Jennifer Kammerud. I am the legislative liaison at the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and with me today to help answer any questions you may have is Katie Rainey, Educator Effectiveness Team Director. We are here today to testify for information only.

School districts are required to implement the new educator effectiveness system beginning in the fall of 2014. Current law allows for school districts and charter schools authorized by the City of Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, and the University of Wisconsin at Parkside, to apply for equivalency to the DPI, if they wish to use an alternative model to measure educator practice. The state currently has one consortium of districts that has applied for and been approved to use an alternative model for educator practice. Under current law, non-instrumentality charter schools authorized by school boards have been ineligible to apply for equivalency separate from their chartering school districts.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the chartering school district has no supervisory authority over their non-instrumentality charter school teachers and principals, and therefore is not involved in the evaluation of these staff members. This law would allow for any non-instrumentality charter school to make an independent decision from their chartering school district, either to apply for equivalency if their district uses the state model, or to use the state model if their school district applies for equivalency.

The Department of Public Instruction has no concerns with this bill. At this time Katie and I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have for us.