State of Education Address Excerpts

September 24, 2009 — State Capitol Rotunda, Madison

By State Superintendent Tony Evers

MADISON — Today, State Superintendent Tony Evers delivered his first State of Education address to an audience of educators, policymakers, and citizens interested in the education of the state's school children. Some excerpts from his speech follow.

Our schools in every part of Wisconsin help our children to become active citizens, productive and skilled workers, and leaders who have risen to the challenges they face, generation after generation. Our long-standing commitment to public education continues to earn nation-leading graduation rates, college entrance exam scores, and strong increases in students taking rigorous college-level courses.

We know our schools and democracy are made stronger by our constant effort to change and renew, to strive for the common good, and transform for the better.

We must educate children *now* for jobs that will be the foundation of Wisconsin's prosperity.

Let me be clear. All school districts in the state need Milwaukee to succeed. All of us must get behind our efforts to lift the achievement of Milwaukee's children. We need to leave behind blame and excuses and build on the good being done there by hard-working educators, parents, and students.

We are living in exciting times, and I believe it is possible for plans that seemed unattainable in the past to actually happen.

My parents taught me to leave this world a better place than you found it. We all need to help and provide our ideas. And, we all need to join together for our kids' education.

Educators are building Wisconsin's economic future every day. Educators are tomorrow's job creators. They don't expect shout outs, high fives, or tweets. They do expect and deserve our support and commitment to educating all our students.

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Tony Evers is Wisconsin's state superintendent of public instruction. Elected in April, his term for the nonpartisan, constitutional office is four years.