

Promoting Excellence for All: State Superintendent's Task Force on Wisconsin's Achievement Gap



**Migrant Education Program Meeting
October 1, 2015**

Promoting Excellence for All



“The work of this task force is extremely important to me because it is directly connected to Agenda 2017, my vision for all Wisconsin’s students to graduate college and career ready.”

State Superintendent Tony Evers



“We made a commitment as educators when we walked into our classrooms for the first time that we will reach every kid. We didn’t make a commitment to reach only 75 percent of the students.”

Dr. Demond Means, Superintendent
Mequon-Thiensville School District

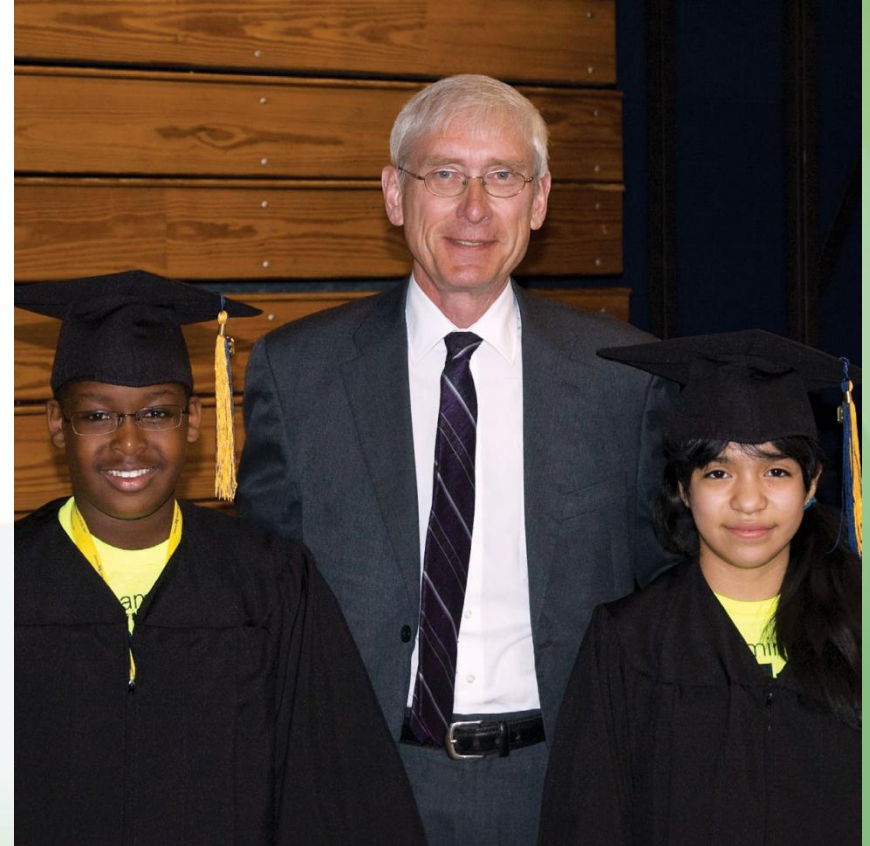
Wisconsin's Diversity

- ✓ Leads to economic growth, opportunities, and progress
- ✓ Creates rich and vibrant communities
- ✓ Key asset to Wisconsin's public education system



Wisconsin's Public Schools

- **Second in the nation for average composite ACT score**
- **Tied for second highest graduation rate in the nation**
- **Positive trends in third-grade reading and eighth-grade math**



National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP): Grade 8 Mathematics

2013 NAEP
Grade 8 Mathematics
Percent at or above Proficient



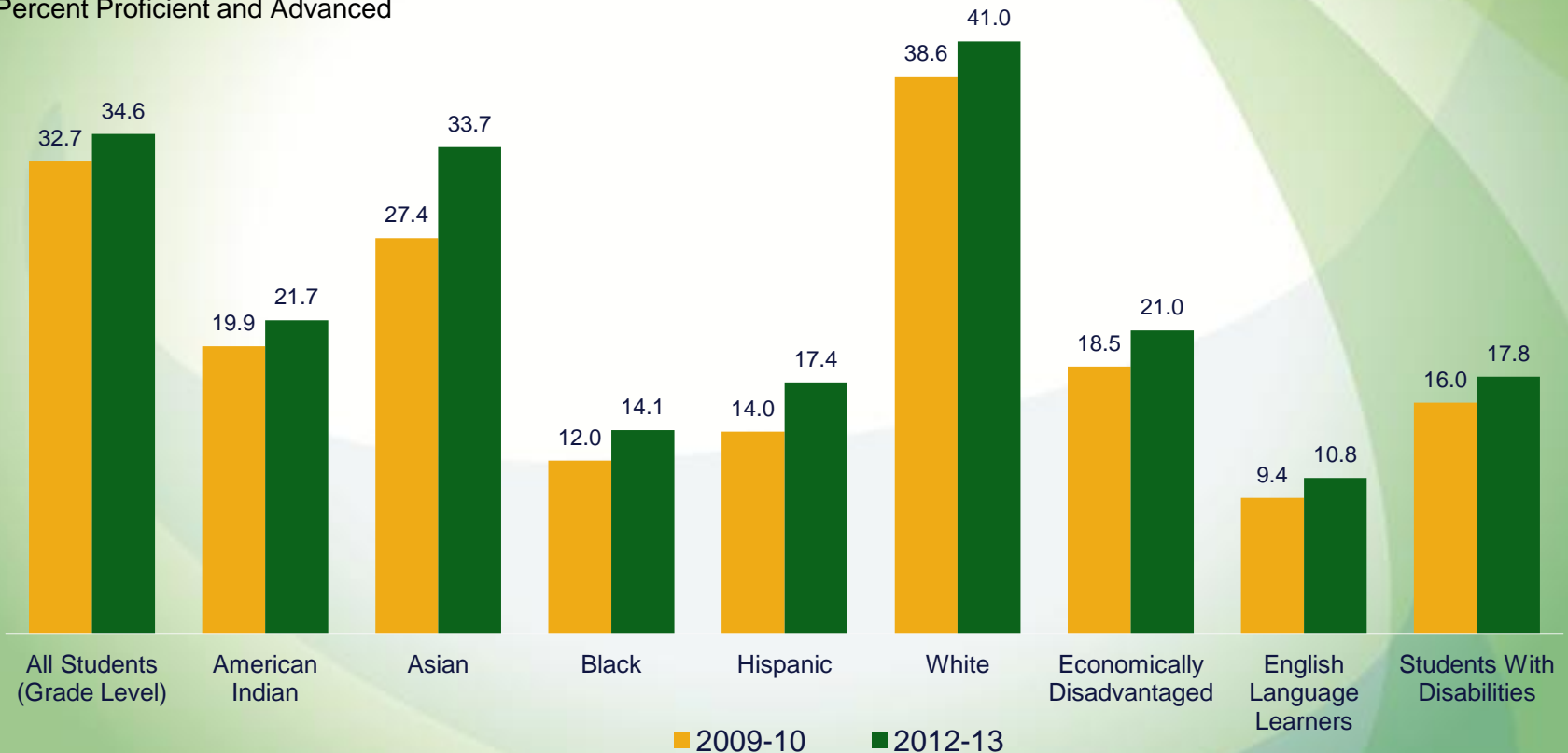
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP): Grade 4 Reading

2013 NAEP
Grade 4 Reading
Percent at or above Proficient



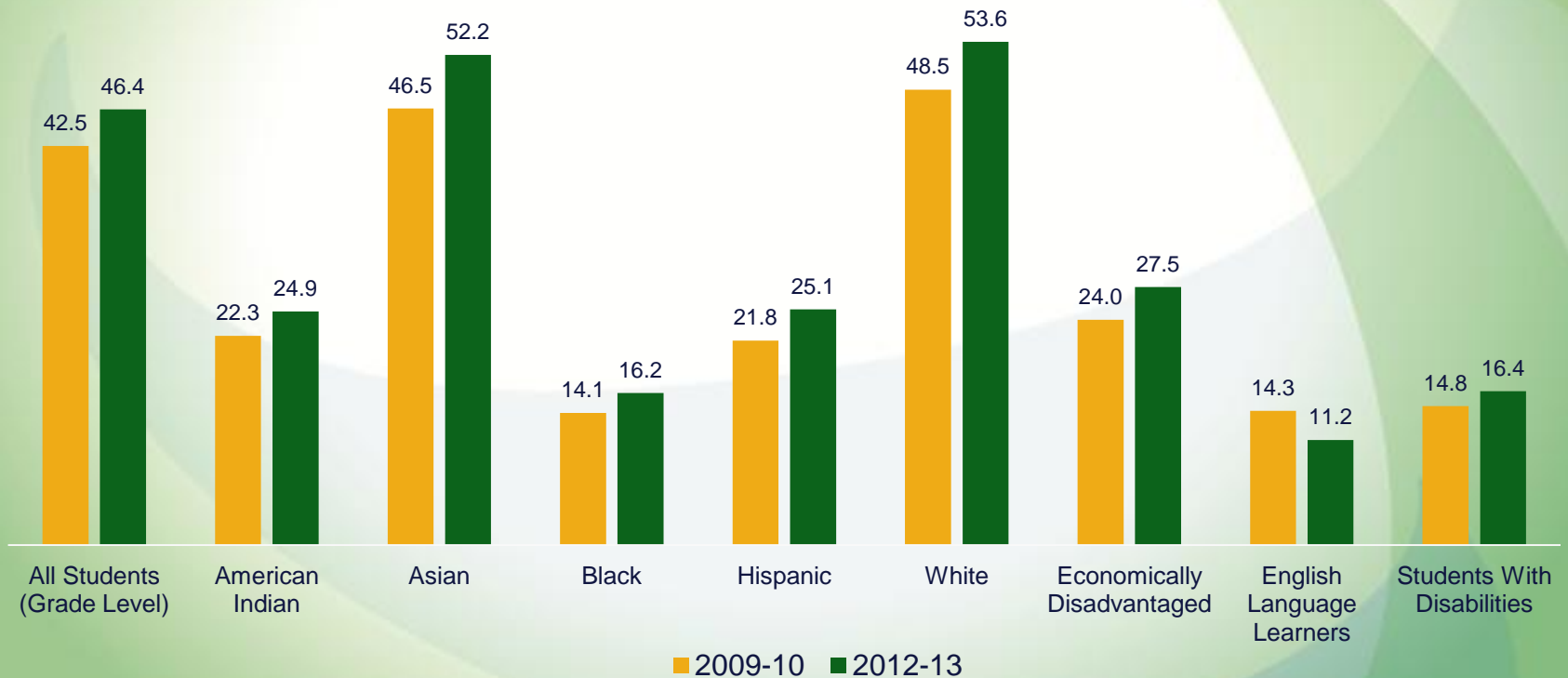
WSAS Performance: Grade 3 Reading

WSAS Performance
Grade 3 Reading
Percent Proficient and Advanced



WSAS Performance: Grade 8 Mathematics

WSAS Performance
Grade 8 Mathematics
Percent Proficient and Advanced



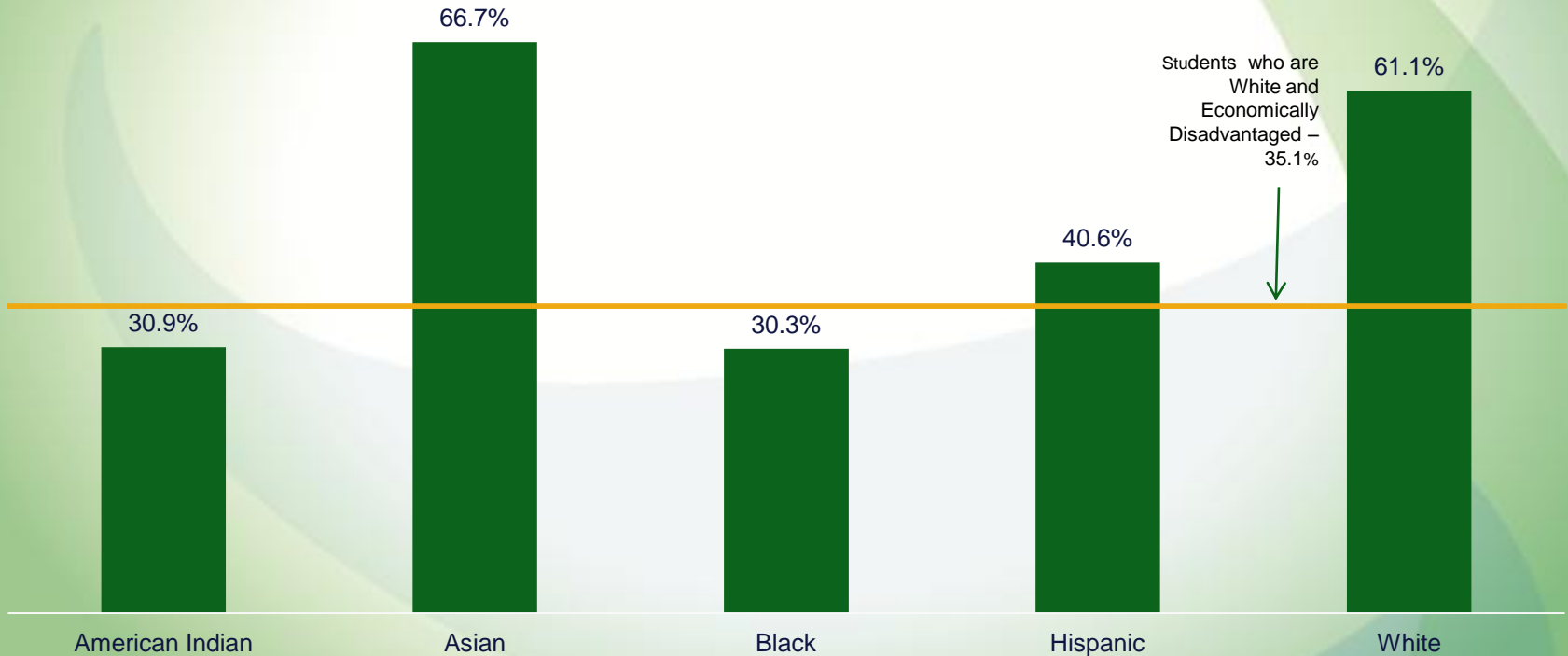
WSAS Performance: Grade 8 Mathematics

WSAS Performance 2013

Grade 8 Mathematics

Students Who are not Economically Disadvantaged

Percent Proficient and Advanced



Task Force Members

- Teachers, principals, curriculum coordinators, and instructional coaches
- Public, charter, private schools
- Elementary, middle, and high schools
- Beloit, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, Janesville, Kenosha, Madison, Menominee Indian, Milwaukee Parental Choice, Milwaukee Public Schools, Milwaukee Independent Charter Schools, Oshkosh, Racine, Sun Prairie, Wausau, and West Allis - West Milwaukee



The task force was charged to:

- examine and recommend proactive instructional strategies to close the achievement gap in Wisconsin;
- develop and distribute resources for Wisconsin practitioners working to close achievement gaps in their schools and districts; and
- recommend local board policy changes that can support efforts to close the achievement gap in Wisconsin schools.



Goal:

Close Graduation and
Career/College Readiness
Gaps by 50 Percent

Principles:

Race Conscious
and Culturally
Responsive
Practices

School
Improvement
Research

Research- Based Focus Areas:

Effective Instruction

Family and Community
Engagement

Teacher–Student
Relationships

School and
Instructional
Leadership

Researched Based Focus Areas and Task Force Recommended Strategies

- **Effective Instruction**

- Differentiation
- Gradual Release of Responsibility
- Personalization (Voice/Choice)
- Rigorous, Integrated Content
- Engagement
- Comprehensive Literacy Instruction
- Grouping Decisions Based on Data
- Explicit Instruction
- Formative Assessment
- Soft Skills

- **Student-Teacher Relationships**

- Angel List
- Celebrate Success
- Classroom Culture
- Cultural Competency
- Extended Time
- Honor Students as Individuals
- Reclaim Unstructured Time
- Acknowledge Students for Accomplishments
- Talent Management
- Mentor Students
- School-wide Behavior System

- **Family and Community Engagement**

- Consider Families and Communities as Experts on their Children
- Family Engagement
- Welcoming Environment
- Community Schools
- Community Partnerships
- Focused Events
- Communication with Families

- **School and Instructional Leadership**

- All Staff Responsible for All Students
- Capacity Building
- Comprehensive Leadership Process
- Data Analysis
- Intentional Design of Systems (IDOS)
- Math and Reading Interventions
- Relationship Building
- School and District Common Planning
- Shared Vision and Leadership
- Instructional Coaches
- Professional Learning Communities

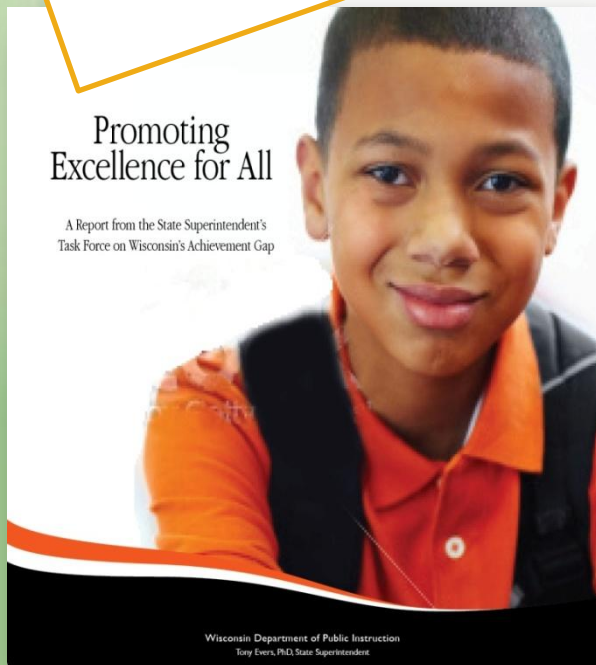
Agenda 2017

- Increase the graduation rate
- Increase career and college readiness
- Close graduation and career and college readiness gaps by 50%
- Increase the percentage of students scoring proficient in third-grade reading and eighth-grade mathematics.
- Adopt the Fair Funding for Our Future plan



Promoting Excellence for All Resources

The **report** captures process, decisions, and recommendations of task force members.



The **online resource** is an interactive, engaging site featuring resources on each of the four school improvement focus areas and explanations of strategy applications.

Promoting Excellence for All eCourse

The *Promoting Excellence for All eCourse* is a resource added to the *Promoting Excellence for All Website* to be used by Wisconsin practitioners working to close achievement gaps in their schools and districts.



Charge to the Parent Advisory Council

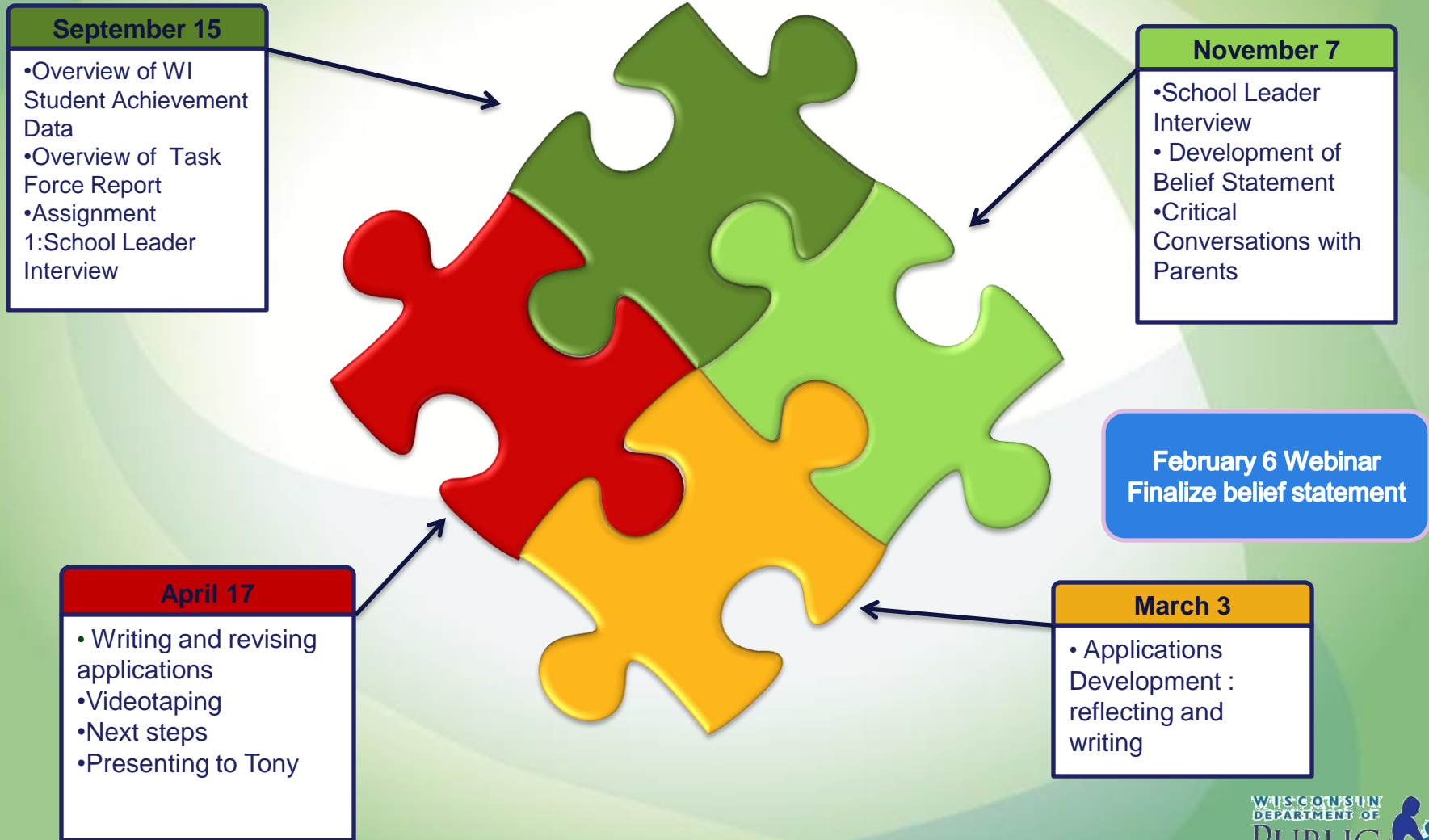
Building on the work of the “Promoting Excellence for All: State Superintendent’s Task Force on Wisconsin’s Achievement Gap,” recommend strategies for how schools and families can work together to engage all families in student learning and close student achievement gaps.

Strategies that Promote Excellence for All

Family and Community Engagement

- Consider Families and Communities as Experts on their Children
- Family Engagement
- Welcoming Environment
- Community Schools
- Community Partnerships
- Focused Events
- Communication with Families

2014-15 PAC Accomplishments



PAC Belief Statement

We believe all parents want their children to learn and to succeed in school. Families are a source of strength and knowledge.

Families are best able to help their children do well in school when schools value families and make frequent efforts to know, listen to, and learn from parents.

PAC Belief Statement continued

Schools enlist families as partners and decision makers in closing student achievement gaps when schools:

- Recognize and build upon students' unique **cultural and family strengths**
- Communicate regularly with families in their languages and **invite families to share** their knowledge and needs
- Create multiple avenues for all families to **gain skills and knowledge** that support children's learning and achieve school goals, and
- Help families become aware of and use **community resources** that prepare every child to be career and college ready.

Strategy Applications

Welcoming Environment

Roosevelt Elementary's start-of-year event to welcome families.

- Families receive a written invitation and a personal phone call
- The principal, school staff, and school mascot welcome each family
- Families meet each other while sharing a meal
- Parents rotate through various informational sessions while children enjoy phys-ed activities
- Children and parents re-unite to play learning games

“As a parent, that personal touch made a big difference. It made the program feel more inviting and that my presence was truly wanted.” - Jakelyn Karabetsos, Kenosha Parent

Tips from PAC Members

Communication with Families

- Ask parents how to best communicate with them
- Hang data mini-posters or signs about student achievement in conspicuous places
- Give parents rubrics to help them understand how student grades are determined

Family Engagement

- View extended family members as resources
- Meet parents at neighborhood spaces
- Expect and train all school staff to offer prompt and friendly personal assistance
- Share strategies for learning that can be used at home

Strategy Videos

Consider Families and Communities as Experts on Their Children

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_4tBAvkbw1I

Josephine Lorya-Ozulamo, *Madison Parent*

Community Partnerships

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAzICgm1MKw>

Janet Saiz, *Madison Parent and Grandparent*

