

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

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DPI-NR 2015-115

Grant expands gifted education opportunities for students in three urban districts

MADISON — The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will work with three urban districts to increase the number of underrepresented students in gifted education programs through a \$1.1 million, three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The department's Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education grant will target services to high ability and high potential students from low-income families or who are learning English in primary grades in the Kenosha Unified, Racine Unified, and Milwaukee Public school districts. The three goals for the "Expanding Excellence" grant are to

- build collaborative systems that include school and district staff members as well as students and their families to support achievement;
- improve assessments to identify high ability and high potential students who would benefit from advanced services; and
- increase the percentages of high ability and high potential students from economically disadvantaged families and English language learners who achieve at advanced levels.

Currently in Wisconsin, economically disadvantaged students and English language learners are underrepresented among those who achieve at the "advanced" level on state assessments. The "excellence gap" is 12 percentage points between students who were eligible for free or reduced-price meals who scored at the advanced level on the 2013-14 state mathematics assessment and their peers who are not eligible for subsidized school meals. Similar gaps exist for almost every grade level, in nearly every subject, and for English language learners.

"Children and youth who have gifts and talents in the academic, artistic, leadership and other realms come from all segments of our society," noted State Superintendent Tony Evers. "This grant will help us to better identify and develop high ability and high potential students in participating schools in our work on Agenda 2017: to promote excellence for all and prepare all students to graduate college and career ready."

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Wisconsin's funding for the first year of the grant is \$376,983 and was among 10 awards to increase the number of minority and other underrepresented students in gifted and talented programs. Other grant recipients sharing \$4 million in grant awards for the first year of the program are from the following states: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, Minnesota, Ohio, Utah, Virginia, and Washington.

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NOTES: Additional information about gifted and talented education in Wisconsin is available at http://cal.dpi.wi.gov/cal_gifted. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_115.pdf.