

News Release

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Evers schedules ESSA listening sessions, appoints Equity Council

Equity in ESSA Stakeholder Council brings everyone to the table to ensure equitable access to high-quality education

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers has scheduled listening sessions to inform implementation of the new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and has invited stakeholders from across the public and private education spectrum to help ensure that all students have equitable access to a high-quality education.

“The ESSA is, at its heart and by its intent, civil rights legislation. The flexibility in this new law provides us the opportunity to design a plan that works for Wisconsin’s schools and kids,” Evers said. “We will hold five listening sessions to let citizens tell us what they think is most important in educating our students to be ready for college and careers.”

ESSA Listening Sessions	
June 28	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Madison
June 30	Country Springs Hotel, Pewaukee
July 27	Metropolis Hotel, Eau Claire
August 8	Virtual
August 18	Virtual

Listening sessions on school improvement and school accountability will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. in Madison, Pewaukee, and Eau Claire. Two virtual sessions will be held in August. Additionally, a web-based feedback site will launch May 20 at <http://dpi.wi.gov/esea>.

Information from the listening sessions and feedback site will inform the work of the State Superintendent’s Equity in ESSA Stakeholder Council. The group — made up of education leaders from public, charter, and private choice schools; civil rights advocates; policymakers; and leaders in higher education — will focus on bringing equity and guiding development of Wisconsin’s plan for implementing ESSA. The group’s first meeting will be Aug. 31 at the Department of Public Instruction headquarters in Madison. Subsequent meetings will be held in September, October, January, February, and March.

“Increasing equity is the focus of the stakeholder group’s work,” Evers said. “With the largest racial achievement gap in the country, we need to have tough conversations about how Wisconsin will improve education for all students. Our best chance at success will be with everyone at the table bringing a diversity of experience and expertise to ensure that all students have equitable access to a high-quality education.”

(more)

Initially, Evers will ask the Equity in ESSA Stakeholder Council to take a fresh look at Wisconsin's educational accountability system with an eye on the value of Wisconsin's state report cards and what improvements can be made. Stakeholders will also be asked to consider how accountability measures relate to school improvement, what school improvement strategies should look like, and when the state should intervene in a school or district.

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NOTES: A list of invited members of the State Superintendent's Equity in ESSA Stakeholder Council is attached. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2016_59.pdf.

State Superintendent's Equity in ESSA Stakeholder Council

Michael Anton
President, Wisconsin PTA

John Ashley, Executive Director
Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB)

Jon Bales, Executive Director
Wisconsin Association of School
District Administrators (WASDA)

Jim Bender, President
School Choice Wisconsin (SCW)

Kathleen Cullen, Provost and Vice President
Wisconsin Technical College System

Heather DuBois Bourenane, Coordinator
Wisconsin Public Education Network (WPEN)

Fran Finco, President
Wisconsin Association for Supervision and
Curriculum Development (WASCD)

Jesse Harness, Commissioner
CESA Statewide Network

Mike Haynes, Administrator
Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10

Chris Her-Xiong, Principal
Hmong American Peace Academy, Milwaukee

Ralph Hollmon, President
Milwaukee Urban League

Frank Humphrey, President
Wisconsin NAACP, Madison

Brian Jackson, President
Wisconsin Indian Education Association (WIEA)

John Jacobs, Director
Wisconsin eSchool Network (WEN)

Brian Juchems, Senior Director of Education and Policy
Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools, GSAFE

Kim Kohlhaas, President
Wisconsin Federation of Teachers (AFT-Wisconsin)

**Stephen Kolison, Associate Vice President for
Academic Programs and Educational Innovation**
University of Wisconsin System

Jim Lynch, Executive Director
Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA)

Ronald Martin, President-Elect
Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC)

Arturo Martinez, Executive Director
Wisconsin League of United Latin American
Citizens (LULAC)

Karen Menendez Coller, Executive Director
Centro Hispano Dane County - La Raza

Gary Myrah, Executive Director
Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special
Services (WCASS)

Lisa Pugh, Public Policy Director
Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW)

Sean Roberts, Executive Director
Milwaukee Charter School Advocates (MCSA)

Rolf Wegenke, President
Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and
Universities (WAICU)

Woodrow Wiedenhoft, Executive Director
Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials (WASBO)

Elected Officials (Designees to be Named)
Rep. Peter Barca, Assembly Minority Leader
D-Kenosha

Sen. Scott Fitzgerald, Senate Majority Leader
R-Juneau

Sen. Jennifer Shilling, Senate Minority Leader
D-La Crosse

Rep. Robin Vos, Speaker
R-Rochester

Gov. Scott Walker
State of Wisconsin