



"Leadership in Public School Governance"

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TO: Members, Wisconsin Assembly
FROM: Dan Rossmiller, Government Relations Director
DATE: March 9, 2012
RE: Assembly Bill 558 and Senate Bill 461, relating to the governor's read to lead development fund, the Read to Lead Development Council, grants in support of literacy and early childhood development programs, teacher licensure, screening kindergarten pupils for reading readiness, remedial reading services for certain pupils, and evaluating teacher preparatory programs and educator effectiveness.

The Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) **supports** Assembly Bill 558 and its companion bill, Senate Bill 461.

The WASB was pleased to participate in development of education reforms developed by a number of task forces that brought together organizations and individuals with diverse opinions and point of view. This participation included the task force that developed the educator effectiveness framework contained in Assembly Bill 558 and Senate Bill 461.

We believe Wisconsin is headed in the right direction with this legislation, which requires prospective teachers to demonstrate the ability to teach reading for a variety of learning styles and provides for a universal kindergarten screener to measure specific components of reading readiness of all kindergarten pupils. We are pleased that the Governor has pledged the state will pay for this new mandate, and that the bill indeed provides funding for this purpose.

This legislation also sets forth a new system for evaluating teachers and school principals that allows a teacher evaluation, in part, to consider measures of student performance including the test scores of students taught by the teacher. Used judiciously, this can be an important component of evaluations. The new teacher evaluation system also provides increased rigor to evaluations of teachers in non-tested subjects and grades and will inform professional development and teacher improvement plans. This legislation provides valuable flexibility for districts that have already developed their own rigorous evaluation systems through an equivalency process. Finally, Assembly Bill 558 and Senate Bill 461 require that this new educator evaluation system will be in place for the 2014-15 school year, setting forth a reasonable timeline for this vital reform.

The WASB urges your support for Assembly Bill 558 and Senate Bill 461.