

# 'We Must Reinvest in Our Schools'

State Superintendent discusses programs and initiatives to move public education forward

State Superintendent Tony Evers commended school leaders for their hard work, pointing out that Wisconsin has one of the best overall graduation rates in the nation.

However, since Evers took office as state superintendent in 2009, he has repeatedly called for a 100 percent graduation rate for Wisconsin students.

"We are nowhere near that goal when one in 10 Wisconsin students drop out of high school," Evers said. "For Native American and Hispanic students, that number is one in four. For our African American students, one in three."

Looking to improve the state's graduation rates and the gaps that exist between different groups of students, Evers summarized the numerous efforts

education stakeholders have undertaken.

He noted that the state has adopted the Common Core State Standards and is now working on bringing the standards to the classroom. Evers also pointed out the state's focus on strengthening early reading programs, implementing statewide literacy screening and professional development for educators.

Evers referenced other programs and initiatives such as using technology to customize students' learning, connecting high school with higher education and career opportunities, and expanding Response to Intervention programs in schools.

Evers acknowledges that the past year has been difficult for a lot of people in public education and across the state.

"Rancor over state funding cuts, the elimination of collective bargaining, unprecedented educator retirements,



recall elections, and fears around the state and national economy have pitted community and family members against one another," Evers said. "We must reinvest in our schools, fix our broken system of school funding, and ensure our educators have a seat at the table. That is how we can move forward together. ■

A colorful advertisement for TAHER School Lunch Management Services. The background features a smiling young girl on the left and a green field under a blue sky on the right. The central text reads "School Lunch Management Services" in a blue banner at the top. Below this is the slogan "Nourishing the Minds of the Future" with a cartoon illustration of children. The TAHER logo is prominently displayed. The main message is "Committed To Serving Fresh Wholesome Food" followed by the "FOOD 4 LIFE" logo. Three columns of text state: "We Will Serve Fresh Wholesome Food to Your Students", "We Will Train Your Staff", and "We Will Improve Your Financial Results". A "Fresh From the FARM" logo is also present. At the bottom, it says "Ask US what it's all about?" and "www.taher.com". Contact information includes "tel. 952-945-0505 • sales@taher.com" and social media links for "tinyurl.com/TaherFacebook", "facebook.com/taherfood4life", and "twitter.com/#!/taherfood4life". A "31 YEARS PROVEN BY TIME" seal is in the bottom right corner.