



Your Success is Our Success

With the end of the school year drawing near, I would like to congratulate our students who will be graduating from high schools around the state this month. I also want to congratulate you — our state's school leaders — for a job well done.

You have led our schools despite decreased school funding and increased pressure and criticism on public education. Wisconsin continues to lead the nation in high school graduation rates, our students continue to show improvement on the state assessments, and, among other achievements, more Wisconsin students have been taking and succeeding on Advanced Placement exams.

There are countless examples of public schools across the state going above and beyond to deliver the best learning they can to students. Even more impressive is that you've accomplished this while cutting costs and tightening your belts. Here at the WASB, we have also been focused on reducing costs and finding efficiencies while delivering

the same quality of services that school districts have come to expect from the WASB.

In this issue of *Wisconsin School News*, we've included highlights of the 2012-13 Report to the Membership. Our advocacy, legal, policy and communications staff, along with the numerous consultants we engage for governance, superintendent search, coaching and organizational analysis services have been hard at work for you.

This past year, we've responded to more than 5,500 law-related inquiries and 1,200 requests for sample policy information, and had more than 5,400 registrations for WASB events. We've initiated a number of new programs and services in response to member needs including a Coaching Program, an ADA Compliance Program, an Annual Board Process Review Tool, a Policy Manual Quick Check, an online Referenda Resource Center, an online newsletter (*eConnection*), and an Endorsed Insurance Agency Program. In 2013-14, we plan to grow and bolster these efforts —

looking for ways to provide the services you need in the most cost-effective manner possible.

I'd also like to remind school leaders that the state budget debate taking place here in Madison is wrapping up. I urge school leaders to make one final push to advocate on behalf of your schools and students. We've made some progress — as of press time for this issue of *Wisconsin School News* — lawmakers were discussing raising the per-pupil revenue limits.

Now is the time to contact your representatives. Let them know that supporting education is investing in your local community's future. You've done such a good job speaking up for your students; I encourage you to keep it up. The finish line is in sight.

Thanks again for all that you do in supporting your students and the WASB. We will continue to do all that we can to work for you and help you provide a first-rate education for our state's students. ■

This past year, we've responded to more than 5,500 law-related inquiries and 1,200 requests for sample policy information, and had more than 5,400 registrations for WASB events.