



# PAT STRACHOTA

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

## SB 284 Testimony – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade High School Credit Bill 10/3/13

This bill will help students achieve more academic success during their time in middle school and high school by providing opportunities to take more advanced classes.

Under current law, a pupil must be in grades nine to twelve to receive credit toward a high school diploma. However, many middle school students today are excelling and taking high school courses while still in middle school even though they cannot currently get credit for these courses. Allowing them to earn credits for these courses will mean more flexibility to continue taking rigorous coursework in high school.

This bill would allow these middle school students to earn high school credits while in seventh and eighth grade. It allows them to have a richer high school experience, and potentially graduate early as well. The ability to engage in additional advanced, technical, and hand-on classes and experiences as a result of entering high school having earned several credits while still in middle school provides them with more opportunities to advance.

Students who are able to complete high school courses in middle school will also have more room in their high school schedule for Advanced Placement classes. By taking these college level classes and potentially earning college credit, they reduce their college expenses.

The ability to take a wider range of courses in High School gives students more opportunities to decide what potential field of study or career they would like to go in to. Again, this could reduce the costs of college by preventing numerous changes of a student's major.

As we continually seek to reduce school and school district costs across the state, this bill has the potential to aid those efforts. More kids getting required high school credits taken care of in middle school could reduce staffing costs overall. This is a good bill that will help students, school districts, and families across the state.

October 3, 2013

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Education  
From: Senator Glenn Grothman  
Re: Senate Bill 284

This legislation was an idea that was brought to me by my West Bend School District Superintendent. He told me that 20 percent of West Bend School District eighth-graders have the capability to pass a ninth grade class. Therefore, this bill will allow these middle school students to earn high school core credits while in seventh and eighth grade. Currently, you can earn elective credits. This will give these students the ability to progress in their studies if they are ready to do so.

Under current law, a pupil must be in grades nine to twelve to receive credits towards a high school diploma. Many middle school students today are excelling and are unable to continue taking rigorous coursework.

This bill not only gives students opportunities while in seventh and eighth grade, but also gives these students the ability to have a richer high school experience. They are able to engage in additional advanced, technical and hand-on classes and experiences.

Please join me in supporting this commonsense legislation that will help students have more opportunities in middle school and high school.