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# JOEL KITCHENS

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**Testimony for the Assembly Committee on Education  
Assembly Bill 67  
Thursday, April 4, 2019**

Thank you Chairman Thiesfeldt and fellow committee members for holding a public hearing and giving me the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 67, which will require the state Department of Public Instruction to include the percentage of students participating in music, dance, drama and visual arts on the annual school and school district accountability report cards.

I would first like to explain to all of you why I decided to draft this legislation. Although it's common knowledge, numerous studies have conclusively proven that students who participate in the arts in school experience better pupil attendance and greater achievements in other subjects.

I believe that's the case because the arts inspire creativity and self-confidence among our younger populations, which helps them grow and mature into thoughtful adults who think outside of the box to make our state stronger and more diverse.

Because I represent a district that has one of the most active arts communities in Wisconsin, I have seen firsthand how much of an impact this industry has on tourism and an area's quality of life.

While many people might not be aware of this, the arts is one of the best economic development tools we have in this country. Statistics show that the state's nonprofit arts and cultural sector, which generates nearly \$555 million annually in residential household income and \$40.5 million in state government revenue, helps support 27,000 full-time jobs.

I am telling you all of this because, if our students begin to lose interest in the arts, we risk the chance of negatively impacting our economy, as well as our state's culture and creativity.



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AB 67 will help promote the arts by requiring the annual school and school district accountability report cards to include the percentage of students participating in music, dance, drama and visual arts.

The arts data would be included on the report cards for informational purposes only and not be considered in a district's accountability calculations. However, I still believe it's vital that we provide this transparency so local communities will be more inclined to better understand and support what their schools are offering. Unfortunately, when school districts face budget challenges, the arts are frequently the first courses to be cut.

I hope that school districts will use this data internally so that they may compare their participation with other districts and make appropriate decisions. It may also be used to better inform their voting populations during referendum discussions.

I do not believe this bill will create much – if any – additional work for school districts since their Student Information Systems already collect this data.

The only real change I've been informed about is some technical work that will need to be done by DPI and the Student Information Systems related to vendors having to incorporate the new requirements into their local systems to ensure the information is as accurate as possible.

I want to thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony, and I hope you consider supporting this bipartisan piece of legislation. I am also extremely appreciate of all the work that my Senate lead, Senator Kooyenga, and his staff put into this bill. I am now happy to answer any questions if you have them.



**DALE KOOYENGA**  
STATE SENATOR · 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

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April 4, 2019

TO: Members of the Assembly Committee on Education

FROM: Senator Dale Kooyenga

RE: Support for AB 67 information on the school district and school accountability report

Thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 67. This bill requires the state Department of Public Instruction to include on the annual school and school district accountability report cards the percentage of students participating in music, dance, drama and visual arts. The data included on the report cards is for informational purposes only and will not be considered in a district's accountability calculations.

Over the past decade there has been a tremendous emphasis placed on STEM courses. In a student's overall education, STEM courses are important; but, so are the arts. This proposal is simply a way to recognize that importance.

Representative Kitchens and I introduced this bill at the request of the Wisconsin Music Educators Association.

Thank you for hearing this bill. I respectfully ask for your support.

Assembly Committee on Education

April 4, 2019

Testimony for Information on Assembly Bill 67

Good afternoon, Chairman Thiesfeldt and members of the Committee on Education. We appreciate the opportunity to provide informational testimony regarding the technical implementation of Assembly Bill 67. This bill requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to include in the annual school district and school accountability report, commonly referred to as school and school district report cards, the percentage of pupils participating in music, dance, drama, and visual arts.

Under the bill, DPI must include this information for each high school and school district and must also include the statewide percentage of pupils participating in each subject. The bill specifies that this information may not be used to evaluate a school's performance or school district's improvement.

**Technical Implications**

This bill presents a number of technical implications and will necessitate work within DPI and for districts as well as choice schools.

- As of the 2018-19 school year, DPI is collecting course information from districts. This happens through the **WISEdata Roster (Roster)**.
  - The Roster system has been in place since 2016-17, but only for grades 7-12. Districts were encouraged to participate, but it wasn't required.
  - Starting this 2018-19 school year, the Roster is now **required** for all schools and all grade levels K-12 (Not PK).
- The Roster, as part of all collections, has data "checks" built into the system. These are business rules that help ensure the data are in an expected format and are as accurate as possible. These "checks" are called **validation errors**. This is important because, while all course information is required in 2018-19, DPI focused efforts to define those validation errors specifically on data that is required as part of Career and Technical Education reporting (Perkins) and the College and Career Readiness data to be included in the report cards.
  - These validation errors are important for data quality and they aren't in place for arts data; this will require technical work for DPI and for the student information system (SIS) vendors.
  - This technical work requires a year advance notice for vendors to incorporate the requirements into their local systems.

- DPI also has processes in place to monitor data quality in preparation for a snapshot (i.e., when we take an official “picture” of the data). These processes focus on certain data elements, and result in direct communications to schools and districts to highlight when they might have data errors that should be corrected prior to the snapshot.
  - The Roster snapshot for 2018-19 will be on December 10.
  - The data quality review processes will start this summer.
  - The plan is for the data quality review processes to focus on the data that have active validation errors; we do not have this process in place for arts data, and adding additional data quality checks requires more staff and more time at DPI and in the field.
  
- **Choice schools** do not currently participate in the Roster collection.
  - Bringing choice schools (and their SIS vendors) on board to WISEdata for enrollment and demographic snapshots was a significant challenge – for the schools, for their vendors, and for DPI.
  - Bringing choice schools and their vendors up to speed with a course collection would likely require an even bigger challenge for the schools, vendors, and DPI.