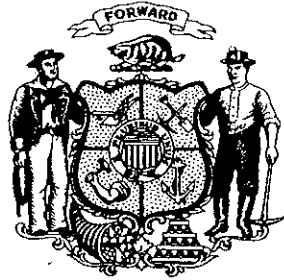


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January 22, 2009

Ms. Elizabeth Burmaster
State Superintendent
Department of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 7841
Madison, WI 53707-7841

Dear Superintendent Burmaster:


We are writing in our capacity as chair and vice-chair of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Building Wisconsin's Workforce. In the course of its meetings, the committee has concluded that communication and collaboration between the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and institutions of higher education on issues of remedial education are of great importance to building the state's workforce. As discussed below, the committee recommends that DPI continue its efforts to communicate and collaborate with institutions of higher education regarding remedial education.

During various committee meetings, our committee heard from representatives of DPI, the University of Wisconsin (UW) System, the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), and independent colleges and universities regarding state efforts to reduce the need for remedial education. Remedial education not only directs state resources away from other higher education efforts, it also creates serious scheduling roadblocks that hinder the ability of institutions of higher education to prepare students for the demands of the evolving Wisconsin economy.

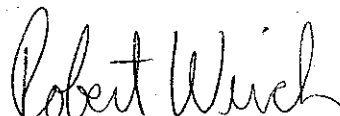
During its meetings, the committee heard testimony regarding reports by higher-ed institutions to certain school districts regarding remedial education statistics related to graduates of those districts. The committee believes these reports provide an effective source of feedback to K-12 educators. Accordingly, we strongly recommend that DPI pursue an across-the-board reporting model based on current best practices to report remedial education statistics back to local school districts.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Karls or Scott Grosz, Legislative Council Staff Attorneys.

Sincerely,



Representative Pat Strachota
Chair, Special Committee on
Building Wisconsin's Workforce



Senator Robert Wirch
Vice Chair, Special Committee on
Building Wisconsin's Workforce

PS:RW:ksm

cc: Kevin Reilly, UW System
Dan Clancy, WTCS
Rolf Wegenke, WAICU