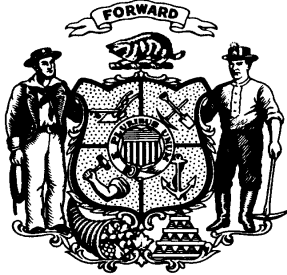


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DRAFT LETTER NO. 1

December 17, 2012

Governor Scott Walker
East Wing
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Governor Walker:

We are writing in our capacity as Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Improving Educational Opportunities in High School. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of ensuring that students depart from high school with the education and skills necessary to succeed in the workplace or in a post-secondary institution.

The Special Committee received testimony from the Madison Metropolitan School District and the Monona Grove School District regarding the benefits of using the EXPLORE PLAN ACT (ACT Suite) and WorkKeys. The combination of EXPLORE, PLAN, and the ACT allows student achievement and academic growth to be measured over time, allows students to make more informed choices about course selection, identifies potential areas for academic improvement, and encourages students to consider college and career options at an earlier age. The WorkKeys test identifies specific skills needed for particular jobs and assesses a student's skill levels in order to determine the types of training or coursework that may be needed. Both students and parents are able to understand the relevance and value of all of these tests.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) 2013-15 budget request includes a proposal that would require all high school students to take the ACT Suite and WorkKeys. Under the proposal, students in 9th grade would take the EXPLORE test, students in 10th grade would take the PLAN test, and students in 11th grade would take the ACT test and WorkKeys.

The Special Committee supports DPI's budget proposal regarding the ACT Suite and WorkKeys and supports the appropriation of funding to school districts to implement the ACT Suite and WorkKeys.

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The Special Committee urges you to include DPI's budget proposal regarding the use of the ACT Suite and WorkKeys in the biennial budget bill that you submit to the Joint Committee on Finance. The committee also urges you to include in your biennial budget bill a requirement that students in 8th grade take EXPLORE and the provision of funding to school districts to implement the EXPLORE test.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Senator Luther Olsen, Chair
Special Committee on Improving
Educational Opportunities in High School

Representative Paul Farrow, Vice Chair
Special Committee on Improving
Educational Opportunities in High School

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