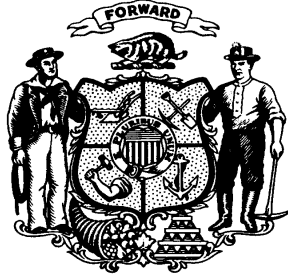


*State of Wisconsin*  
**JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

*Co-Chairs*

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Senator

**JOAN BALLWEG**  
Representative



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**DRAFT LETTER NO. 13**

December 17, 2012

Senator Fred A. Risser, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Council  
Room 130 South  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53701

Representative Joan Ballweg, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Council  
Room 210 North  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Co-Chairs Risser and Ballweg:

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 is directed to develop legislation to create and enhance opportunities for both lower and higher achieving students in high school. Specifically, the Special Committee is directed to evaluate current options available to high school students for both career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment, including the Youth Options Program; examine both career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment options available to high school students in other states; and determine how to promote coordination between high schools, technical colleges, universities, and employers to ensure that high school students have the skills necessary to meet the workforce needs of employers in this state.

During the course of its meetings, the Special Committee generally discussed the 20 education standards, which are minimum, uniform requirements that school districts are required to comply with. The standards create requirements relating to: (1) teacher certification; (2) professional staff development; (3) remedial reading services; (4) kindergarten programming; (5) guidance and counseling services; (6) school schedules; (7) emergency nursing services; (8) instructional materials; (9) safe and healthful facilities; (10) qualified instruction in specified subjects; (11) required curriculum plans in specified subjects; (12) regular instruction in specified subjects; (13) education for employment programs; (14) children at risk plans; (15) school and school district performance reports; (16) high school graduation standards; (17) school personnel evaluation; (18) standardized reading tests; (19) 4th, 8th, and 10th grade

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assessment examinations; and (20) gifted and talented programs.

The Special Committee expressed interest in revising or eliminating the 20 education standards. Given the remaining number of committee meetings and the time that would be required to thoroughly study and discuss the education standards, the committee was unable to make recommendations regarding these standards. However, the committee strongly believes that the education standards should be reviewed and recommends that the Joint Legislative Council appoint a special committee to specifically study the education standards.

Therefore, the Special Committee requests that the Joint Legislative Council appoint a special committee for the 2014 interim to review the 20 education standards to determine whether the standards should be revised or eliminated.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

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

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

LO:PF:ty