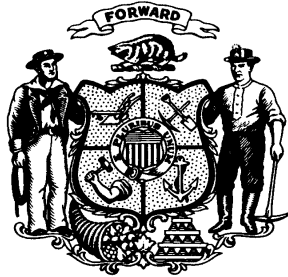


*State of Wisconsin*  
**JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

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*Deputy Director*

**DRAFT LETTER NO. 6**

December 17, 2012

Senator Kathleen Vinehout, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Audit  
Room 316 South  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53701

Representative Samantha Kerkman, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Audit  
Room 315 North  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Co-Chairs Vinehout and Kerkman:

On behalf of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Improving Educational Opportunities in High School, we write to ask that the Joint Committee on Audit direct the Legislative Audit Bureau to conduct an audit of the programs that provide high school students in Wisconsin with the opportunity to earn both high school and post-secondary credits while in high school.

During the course of its meetings, the Special Committee received testimony on the programs that provide high school students with the opportunity to earn both high school and post-secondary credits while in high school, including the Youth Options program. In addition to the Youth Options program, there are other programs, such as dual enrollment and transcribed credit programs, that provide similar opportunities to high school students. Given the variety of programs available and the cost and requirements of the programs, the committee was unable to ascertain whether the programs have been and will continue to be an effective method by which to provide opportunities for post-secondary credits to high school students. Therefore, the Special Committee reached the conclusion that the programs that provide high school students with the opportunity to earn both high school and post-secondary credits are in need of a comprehensive audit.

Generally, the Special Committee recommends that the audit evaluate the cost of each program; the number of students, including students with disabilities, enrolled in each program; and the effectiveness of each program. The audit should include the following programs: (1)

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Youth Options; (2) dual enrollment; and (3) transcribed credit. The audit should also include other similar programs that are identified by the Joint Committee on Audit or the Legislative Audit Bureau.

The need for an audit of programs that provide high school students with the opportunity to earn both high school and post-secondary credits could not come at a better time. It is essential that students depart from high school with the education and skills necessary to succeed in the workplace or in a post-secondary educational institution. Programs that provide opportunities to high school students to earn both high school and post-secondary credits allow students to obtain knowledge in courses that may not be available in high school, which may assist students in exploring career options or becoming more prepared to enter the workplace or a post-secondary educational institution. A better understanding of programs that provide high school students with the opportunity to earn both high school post-secondary credits is necessary for Wisconsin to ensure that it provides effective opportunities to high school students.

Thank you for your attention to this audit 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