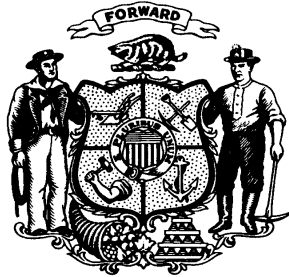


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DRAFT LETTER NO. 8

December 17, 2012

Mr. Reggie Newson, Secretary
Department of Workforce Development
201 East Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Secretary Newson:

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 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 received testimony about programs available to high school students for career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment, including the following: (1) work-based learning programs, such as Youth Apprenticeship; (2) programs that provide high school students with the opportunity to earn post-secondary credits while in high school, such as the Youth Options program; and (3) the technical education high school diploma. The committee expressed concern that school districts and businesses may not be aware of the programs available for career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment. The committee wants school districts and businesses to be aware of the programs for career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment so that school districts and businesses can work together to create more opportunities for high school students. Creating more opportunities will provide students with the ability to depart from high school

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with the education and skills necessary to succeed in the workplace or in a post-secondary institution.

Therefore, the Special Committee requests that the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) increase its outreach to businesses regarding opportunities for businesses to mentor high school students or become involved in programs that provide career and technical education to high school students. In addition, the Special Committee requests that DWD work with the Department of Public Instruction to create an online resource that provides information on the programs available to high school students for career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment.

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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