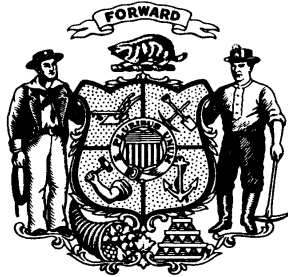


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**DRAFT LETTER NO. 9**

December 17, 2012

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Evers  
Department of Public Instruction  
125 South Webster Street  
Madison, WI 53707-7841

Dear Superintendent Evers:

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 generally discussed the issue of school districts requiring students to demonstrate proficiency in specific content areas and skills, rather than relying on Carnegie units or "seat time" alone to determine students' readiness for the next grade or for high school graduation. The Special Committee was therefore pleased to learn that DPI has formed a Credit Flexibility Work Group that is charged with helping DPI create specific guidance to assist school districts in advancing credit flexibility and reviewing best practices from the state and around the country.

The Special Committee requests that DPI continue to support the efforts of the Credit Flexibility Work Group, ensure that the work group thoroughly examines new methods of earning high school credits by demonstrating competencies, and pursue any legislation the work group recommends.

*Supporting Effective Lawmaking Since 1947*

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<http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc>



Thank you for your consideration of 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

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