



STATE OF WISCONSIN

July 23, 2010

Secretary Arne Duncan
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

On Wednesday, June 2, 2010, Wisconsin adopted the newly-released Common Core State Standards for English language arts and mathematics. Article X of Wisconsin's Constitution gives the State Superintendent the authority to adopt these standards.

In Wisconsin's Round Two Race to the Top application, we referenced our intention to adopt these standards no later than July 30, 2010. The documentation that accompanies this letter serves as the addendum to Wisconsin's application indicating that the Common Core State Standards have now been adopted.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jim Doyle in black ink.

Jim Doyle
Governor

Handwritten signature of Tony Evers in black ink.

Tony Evers
State Superintendent

Adoption of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History, Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects and the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics

Whereas, on January 17, 2007, Wisconsin joined the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, a multi-state network, to guide Wisconsin in the revision of the state's academic standards to ensure they reflect the knowledge and skills students need for the 21st century; and

Whereas, on January 19, 2007, Wisconsin joined the American Diploma Project Network, a national effort focused on the alignment of standards, assessments, and high school graduation requirements in English language arts and mathematics; and

Whereas, Wisconsin recognized the need for standards that prepared students for the workforce and college through its March 14, 2007, Business Summit that asked business leaders to identify knowledge and skills needed for success; and

Whereas, on May 19, 2009, Wisconsin joined the voluntary effort to develop Common Core State Standards coordinated by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices to define K-12 academic standards; and

Whereas, 47 other states also joined this voluntary effort; and

Whereas, the 48 states participating in the Common Core State Standards Initiative partnered to increase the rigor and relevance of academic standards across all participating states; and

Whereas, Wisconsin has participated in on-going review and feedback to the developers of the Common Core State Standards; and

Whereas, the Common Core State Standards Initiative released on June 2, 2010, the *Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History, Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects* and the *Common Core State Standards for Mathematics*; and

Whereas, the *Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History, Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects* and the *Common Core State Standards for Mathematics* are aligned with college and work expectations, inclusive of rigorous content and application, and are internationally benchmarked; and

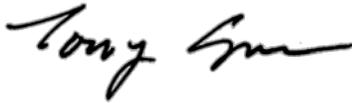
Whereas, these common core state standards will ensure academic consistency throughout the state and across other states that adopt them; and

Whereas, English language arts and mathematics standards serve as a solid foundation to ensure every child is a graduate ready for the workforce or postsecondary studies; and

Whereas, higher student achievement is driven by rigorous standards, high-quality curriculum, and assessments that provide meaningful feedback to improve instruction; and

Whereas, under Article X, Section 1 of the Wisconsin Constitution, the supervision of public instruction shall be vested in the state superintendent;

Now, therefore, I, Tony Evers, State Superintendent, exercise my authority under Article X, Section 1 of the Wisconsin Constitution to approve, adopt, and issue the *Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History, Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects* and the *Common Core State Standards for Mathematics* as the academic standards that will be used as the basis for curriculum, instruction, and assessment by the State of Wisconsin.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Evers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tony Evers, PhD
State Superintendent
June 2, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

Contact: Patrick Gasper, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

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Wisconsin adopts Common Core State Standards

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers formally adopted the newly released Common Core State Standards for English language arts and mathematics today for Wisconsin.

“Wisconsin is ready to make the Common Core State Standards its academic standards for curriculum, instruction, and assessment,” Evers said. “These standards are aligned with college and career expectations, will ensure academic consistency throughout the state and across other states that adopt them, and have been benchmarked against international standards from high-performing countries.”

Evers exercised his authority under Article X of the Wisconsin Constitution to adopt the standards. Adoption by the state superintendent is referenced in the state’s Race to the Top application which was sent to the U.S. Department of Education on Tuesday.

The standards for English language arts and mathematics, which became public today (June 2), define the knowledge and skills students should have during their elementary and secondary school education so they are prepared to compete and succeed in the global economy. Wisconsin is a partner state in the Common Core State Standards Initiative and has had on-going involvement in shaping the standards as they were developed, reviewing them, and providing feedback to the project writers.

The process to implement the Common Core State Standards so they improve student achievement requires understanding the content of the standards, developing curriculum that reflects the standards, and then providing resources for teachers to develop lesson plans to teach those standards. The Department of Public Instruction will partner with school districts, universities, and education organizations to provide curriculum models and on-line resources to transition to the Common Core State Standards. Additionally, Wisconsin will work with the SMARTER/Balanced Assessment Consortium to develop high-quality, common assessments that are connected to classroom instruction.

“These English language arts and mathematics standards will serve as a solid foundation to ensure every child is a graduate ready for the workforce or postsecondary studies,” Evers said. “Higher student achievement is

(more)

driven by rigorous standards, high-quality curriculum, and assessments that provide meaningful feedback to improve instruction.”

Wisconsin was an early state in recognizing the need for standards that prepared students for workforce and college expectations. In spring of 2007, business leaders shared their expectations for students who would be graduating in five to 10 years. The state then worked with Achieve’s American Diploma Project and with the Partnership for 21st Century Skills to revise its standards for English language arts and mathematics. Once the Common Core State Standards Initiative was announced, Wisconsin expanded its focus to work with participating states and territories, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, and the Council of Chief State School Officers to develop the Common Core State Standards.

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2010_75.pdf. Additional information about the Common Core State Standards Initiative is available at <http://www.corestandards.org>.