



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Burmaster names task force to develop comprehensive assessment system for Wisconsin

MADISON—"Wisconsin needs a comprehensive assessment system that provides educators and parents with timely and relevant information that helps them make instructional decisions to improve student achievement," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster in announcing members of a statewide Next Generation Assessment Task Force.

Representatives from business, commerce, and education will make recommendations to the state superintendent on the components of an assessment system that are essential to increase student achievement. Task force members will review the history of assessment in Wisconsin and learn about the value, limitations, and costs of a range of assessment approaches. They will hear presentations on a number of other states' assessment systems. Those systems may include ACT as part of a comprehensive assessment system, diagnostic or benchmark assessments given throughout the year, or other assessment instruments and test administration methods. The group's first meeting will be held October 8 in Madison.

Specifically the task force will make recommendations concerning the:

- components that should comprise a state assessment system so that teachers and parents have timely information to make decisions about modifying instruction for students and so that decisions can be made about the progress of schools toward grade-level proficiency targets,
- role of assessment as it fits with content standards, instruction, professional development, and intervention models, and
- assessment strategies and delivery modes that provide the greatest promise for accurately demonstrating student attainment of 21st century skills.

"Our current assessment system meets the rigorous federal standards for technical quality and alignment to state content standards," Burmaster said. "However, a new balanced assessment system

(more)

needs to address classroom evaluative strategies and interim benchmark assessments so educators and parents can intervene early to improve student learning.”

Currently, Wisconsin contracts with CTB-McGraw Hill to administer the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) and Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities (WAA-SwD) annually in grades three through eight and grade 10. All students in those grades take paper and pencil assessments in reading and mathematics. Additionally, to meet state accountability requirements, students in grades four, eight, and 10 take assessments in language arts, science, and social studies. During the 2007-08 school year, approximately 441,000 students took WKCE or WAA-SwD examinations that make up the Wisconsin Student Assessment System.

Wisconsin is in the sixth year of an initial six-year contract with the testing vendor, valued at about \$10 million per year. The testing contract includes two two-year renewal periods and has a two-year notification requirement to terminate the contract. Recommendations from the task force will guide development of a new assessment contract or contracts. Test development typically takes about two years.

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**NOTE:** A list of members for the statewide Next Generation Assessment Task Force follows. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008\\_136.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_136.pdf).

# Next Generation Assessment Task Force

## Co-Chairs

Tom Still, President  
Wisconsin Technology Council, Madison

Joan Wade, Administrator  
CESA 6, Oshkosh

## Task Force Members

Russ Allen, Consultant  
Instruction and Professional Development  
Wisconsin Education Association Council

Nell Anderson, Director  
Bilingual, ELL, and Equity Programs  
Wausau School District

Patrice Ball, Milwaukee Public Schools  
English Language Arts Curriculum Specialist

Nissan Bar-Lev, Special Education Director  
CESA 7, Green Bay

Brian Bartel, Science Teacher  
West High School, Appleton

Dee Bauman, Hamilton School District  
Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Rick Chandler of Madison  
Chandler Consulting

Mary Cimbalk, Special Education Director  
Pewaukee School District

Yvette Dunlap, Appleton Area School District  
Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

Charles Fitzgerald, President  
Rhineland School Board

Keith Fuchs, Superintendent  
Menasha School District

Patricia Herdrich, Superintendent  
West Bend School District

Dacia Hopfensberger, Assessment Coordinator  
Hartland-Lakeside J3 School District

Peggy Jones, Principal  
Bonduel and Navarino Elementary Schools, Bonduel

Kurt Keifer, Director  
Planning, Research, and Evaluation  
Madison Metropolitan School District

Linda Kunelius, Superintendent  
Bayfield School District

Deb Lindsey, Milwaukee Public Schools  
Director of Research and Assessment

Phil McDade, Vice President  
Monona Grove School Board

Colleen McHugh-Moore, Greendale School District  
Special Education and Pupil Services Director

Demond Means, Superintendent  
Mequon-Thiensville School District

Lori Mitchell, Science Teacher  
Tomahawk Middle School

Joseph Moylan, Principal  
Oconomowoc High School

John Peterson, Special Education Director  
Fort Atkinson School District

Karen Reiss, Instructional Specialist  
Germantown School District

Mary Richards, Math Specialist  
Waupaca Elementary Learning Center

Diane Rozanski, Milwaukee Public Schools  
Instructional Technology Specialist

Brian Rude, Director of External Relations  
Dairyland Power Cooperative, La Crosse

Judy Sargent, Director  
School Improvement Services  
CESA 7, Green Bay

Ron Sandoval, Assistant Principal  
Edward Bain School of Language and Art, Kenosha

Julie Seefeldt, Associate Director of ELL Programs  
Green Bay Area School District

Chris Van Hoof, Director of Instruction  
Clintonville School District

Wendell Waukau, Superintendent  
Menominee Indian School District

Bart Wepking, Language Arts Teacher  
Wheatland Center Elementary School, Burlington

Lori Weyers, President  
Northcentral Technical College, Wausau

John Whitsitt, Director  
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Jim Wollack, UW-Madison  
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Betty Womack, Kettle Moraine School District  
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