



Advancing Educational Excellence
For All Wisconsin Students

Back to School: Where Wisconsin's Public Education System Has Been, Currently Is, and Could Be

The Madison Club
5 E Wilson St., Madison, WI
Lake Dining Room

Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2012
Coffee and continental breakfast: 9:30 a.m.
Panel discussion: 10-11 a.m.

Panelists will include Democratic and Republican legislative education leaders to be determined at a later date, as well as:

Mary Bell
President
Wisconsin Education Association Council

Dan Rossmiller
Director of Government Relations
Wisconsin Association of School Boards

Dr. Michael Thompson
Deputy State Superintendent
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elaine Richmond
Administrator, Division of Early Care and Education
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

The panel will be moderated by Alan Borsuk, Senior Fellow in Law and Public Policy at the Marquette University Law School

Please RSVP to Isral DeBruin, Outreach & Communications Director at either debruin@edtogether.org or (414) 331-1894.

Event Background

The beginning of a new school year and the roll out of updated performance benchmarks provide an opportunity to look at where Wisconsin education has been, where we are, and where we need to go.

Despite some consistent high marks, Wisconsin's overall academic performance masks some of the largest achievement gaps in the country. 2011 WKCE data reveals economically disadvantaged students' math and reading proficiency rates were more than 26 percentage points lower than their middle- and high-income peers. Our achievement gaps are a statewide problem. Green Bay, Racine, and Madison all have achievement gaps greater than Milwaukee's while Appleton and Kenosha are close.

Wisconsin has long enjoyed a reputation as a public education vanguard, but multiple forces are preventing us from meeting our full potential.

Host Background

EdTogether is an education policy and advocacy group committed to advancing educational excellence for all Wisconsin students through collaborative policy design, research, and advocacy. EdTogether's policy focus areas are based on preventative, rather than reactionary, approaches to close Wisconsin's opportunity gaps. Currently, our primary agenda includes further expanding access to quality early childhood education and advancing opportunities for learning beyond the traditional K-12 school year and day.