

December 4, 2013

Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt  
Room 16 West  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Representative Dean Knudson  
Room 320 East  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Re: Letters to State Superintendent Evers Dated November 21 and November 27, 2013

Dear Representatives Thiesfeldt and Knudson:

State Superintendent Evers requested that I respond to Representative Knudson's letter of November 21 and your subsequent letter dated November 27. The department wishes to provide you with the information you requested in Rep. Knudson's November 21 letter. To ensure the department does that, I have the following questions for clarification:

1. You request "... a copy of each subsequent draft of the CCSS received by DPI." Am I correct in assuming that "subsequent" means drafts of the CCSS dated after the date of the initial draft?
2. You request "...copies of all comments the Department received from teachers, education professionals, parents, taxpayers, etc., in response to any CCSS draft." What do you mean by "etc"? Are you really saying you want comments from anyone that were made in response to any CCSS draft? If so, please know that it will take weeks for the department to locate all comments since many people have worked on the CCSS for a number of years, and any one of them might have received comments. In addition, some of those people are no longer with the department and their former mailboxes will need to be restored from backup tapes to the extent the department has retained that information. This is an extremely time intensive process for information technology staff. Once that has been done, someone will need to review all of the emails to determine if they have anything to do with the CCSS.

December 4, 2013

Page 2 of 3

If you intend to limit your request to specific groups or types of people, can you please be more specific than "etc." in describing those groups? Please note that comments about CCSS might not identify whether the commenter is a member of the specified group. For example, the department might have a comment from John Doe who happens to be a teacher, but he does not identify himself as such in his comment. Also, are you requesting only comments in which the person identifies himself or herself as a taxpayer or parent, for example? Please clarify.

In addition, your request requires the department to determine whether any comments are "in response to" any CCSS draft. Unless the comment somehow indicates that it is in response to a CCSS draft, the department cannot ascertain whether the comment is a general comment about CCSS or in response to a draft. In order to sift out general comments, departmental staff will be required to read every comment in an attempt to make that distinction, assuming the distinction can be made. Are you requesting only those comments that specifically state they are in response to a CCSS draft? Again, please clarify.

Please note some of the people who might have received comments about the CCSS are no longer with the department and their former mailboxes will need to be restored from backup tapes, to the extent the department has retained that information. Once that has been done, someone will need to review all the emails to determine if they have anything to do with the CCSS. Again, this process will take the department weeks to complete.

3. You further request "all the feedback that the relevant Wisconsin standards experts submitted to the CCSS authors." I have two questions regarding this request. First, I am not certain what you mean by "relevant" in the context in which you use that word. Please clarify. Second, to which CCSS "authors" are you referring? My understanding is that a number of persons from a number of states contributed to the CCSS and could be considered "authors." Is this what you mean by "authors"? Please clarify.
4. You also request "... copies of any invitations, meeting notes, etc." Once again, please clarify what you mean by "etc."
5. You also request "...all records including emails, sent or received by the Office of the State Superintendent ... ." The Office of the State Superintendent means different things to different people. Attached to this letter is an organizational chart for all persons in the Office of the State Superintendent as the department defines that Office. Does this organizational chart include all of the persons you mean to include as part of the Office of State Superintendent? Please clarify.

Once I have a clearer picture of what you are requesting, I will be able to better estimate how long it will take to provide you with the information. While the department has already begun to work on obtaining the information you have requested, it is impossible to provide all the information you request in a matter of a few days. Your very broad request will require a great deal of time by a number of persons who, as you know, have other substantial and significant responsibilities.

December 4, 2013

Page 3 of 3

Thank you for your letters and I look forward to hearing from you regarding the clarifications I have requested.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Jenkins".

Janet Jenkins  
Chief Legal Counsel  
608-266-9332 (phone)  
Janet.jenkins@dpi.wi.gov

