

December 11, 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: Partial Response to Request for Information

Dear Representatives Thiesfeldt and Knudson:

I write to provide a partial response to the requests for information contained in Rep. Knudson's letter to State Superintendent Evers dated November 21, 2013. In that letter, he stated, among other things:

Wisconsin would participate as a full partner in the process of drafting and revising the CCSS, but Wisconsin would reserve the right to make an educated decision about adopting them as they unfolded."

Since Wisconsin had already spent significant time working on revision to its own standards before the multi-state initiative that led to CCSS, Wisconsin actively participated in the CCSS drafting/revising process while maintaining perspective on whether the CCSS standards would meet Wisconsin's needs.

Rep. Knudson then asked the following three questions:

- How did the department maintain perspective on whether the CCSS standards would meet Wisconsin's needs?
- What inclusions or exclusions to the CCSS would have resulted in the department determining that the CCSS would not meet Wisconsin's needs?
- Was there a formal process used to determine whether or not the CCSS standards met Wisconsin's needs? If so, please describe the process and provide the rubric.

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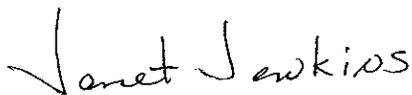
In August 2013, the department submitted to the Joint Committee on Finance a report entitled, *Transforming Teaching and Learning, Wisconsin's Journey to College and Career-Ready Standards*. This report details the history of the CCSS and the reasons the department adopted them. There is no reason to repeat that entire discussion here.

As the report noted, the state began looking at its academic standards in 2007 with an eye toward revision. As the department has testified on several occasions, it convened statewide English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics leadership teams in 2008 to review and consider revisions to the 1998 Model Academic Standards that were in place at the time. In this context, the leadership team reviewed and considered standards of other state. They also discussed what new standards should look like. Jennifer Kammerud today has sent to Rep. Thiesfeldt the draft standards compiled by these leadership teams.

At the time of this review, the CCSS did not exist. It was 2009 when Governor Doyle and State Superintendent Burmaster signed the MOU to collaborate with 49 other states to draft higher standards (ELA) and mathematics. Given the fact that the leadership teams were considering new academic standards for Wisconsin *before* they saw the first draft of the CCSS, they had substantial knowledge of non-common core academic standards to guide them in their review of the CCSS. Given this knowledge of non-common core alternatives, the leadership teams and the department easily maintained perspective in reviewing the CCSS.

Moving to another topic, thank you very much for your letter of December 5, 2013 in which you clarify your requests for information. I now know how to proceed in providing the information you request. I will send you a letter by separate cover indicating an estimate of the time it will take to provide all the information you request. I am unable to provide that information now since I first need to talk to staff that are out of the office for a few days.

Respectfully,



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