

# WINNECONNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Learning Today...  
Leading Tomorrow

**To:** Wisconsin Common Core Legislative Committee

**From:** Margaret Larson (District Administrator) and Garth Larson (Director of Learning)

**Re:** Common Core State Standards Review and Feedback

November 5, 2013

In response to the questions you have provided us, please see our collective responses below.

1. The Winneconne Community School District previously used the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards prior to 2010 when the State of Wisconsin adopted the Common Core State Standards. These standards are still currently being used in all areas except for Mathematics and English Language Arts. The standards being used can be found directly on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website at <http://standards.dpi.wi.gov/>.
2. The Winneconne Community School District has fully adopted the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts and we have not changed or augmented these standards in any way. These standards are much more rigorous than the previous model standards that were being used in our district and the state of Wisconsin. Our district has embraced the fact that we needed more rigorous standards and we also recognize this does not cap what they are learning, rather sets a minimum expectation for what our students are expected to know by the conclusion of each school year.
3. It is difficult to put a dollar amount on the cost associated with curriculum updates and professional develop in relationship specifically to the adoption of the Common Core standards. As our curriculum is always changing (whether it be with the Common Core or Wisconsin Model Academic Standards), costs continue to occur. We have modified our curriculum to better align with the Common Core Standards and that has resulted in costs to our district. However, the amount of money spent specifically on the Common Core has not been different than previous years because of the fact that our curriculum does change when it comes to meeting the needs of our students.
4. The Winneconne Community School District wants what is best for our students and families and to ensure that high quality instruction is taking place in every classroom. We believe standards should consistently be reviewed to ensure they are meeting the needs of our students. The standards now are addressed to make our students college and career ready and that should continue to be the focus on any standards we are using. If college and career readiness looks different 5-7 years from now, then we feel they should again be reviewed to make sure the standards meet the needs of what college and career readiness looks like for our students at that time.

If you have specific questions regarding our responses, please do not hesitate to contact us at the information listed below.

Margaret Larson

District Administrator

Garth Larson

Director of Learning



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

District Administrator Larson  
PO Box 5000  
Winneconne WI 54986-5000

Dear District Administrator Larson,

As you may know, select committees in the Wisconsin legislature recently began a process of reviewing the Common Core model standards. Through public hearings, these committees will solicit input from parents and stakeholders and lead a statewide conversation on what sort of standards should be taught in Wisconsin schools.

We have already heard directly from several school districts as to how they have adopted and in some cases strengthened the model standards, but we also want to hear from you. Education professionals have firsthand knowledge of the nexus between standards, curriculum, and assessments, and your response would be of value.

1. Since 1997, Wisconsin law has required each school board to adopt academic standards in mathematics, science, reading and writing, geography, and history. Wis. Stat. 118.30(1g)(a). School boards may adopt the Department of Public Instruction's model standards or adopt their own. Prior to June of 2010, had your district formally adopted academic standards? Please provide a copy. ✓
2. State Superintendent Tony Evers adopted the Common Core model standards for the state of Wisconsin in 2010. These standards have also been adopted by many school districts and are sometimes augmented and/or strengthened by local officials to better meet the needs of their individual district. Has your district adopted the model Common Core standards? Has your district augmented those standards in any way? How has your district been impacted by the department's adoption of these model standards? If your district has adopted Common Core, would you consider the Common Core model standards more or less rigorous than whatever standards your district had used previously? ✓
3. What costs has your district incurred associated with curriculum updates, teacher training, etc., as a result of the Department of Public Instruction's adoption of the Common Core model standards in June of 2010? ✓



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4. Many states, such as Minnesota, Iowa and Massachusetts, have a formalized process whereby their academic standards are reviewed every 5 to 7 years. Would you support the adoption of a similar process in Wisconsin? Why or why not? ✓

To ensure that your district's voice is heard, please respond by Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> via electronic mail at [commoncore@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:commoncore@legis.wisconsin.gov). We hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Dean Knudson  
30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Jeremy Thiesfeldt  
52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District

Paul Farrow  
33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District

Alberta Darling  
8<sup>th</sup> Senate District

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