



Senator Luther Olsen – Wisconsin District 14

June Newsletter



Chair's Corner – A message from Senator Olsen

As the Badger State's legislature comes to a close, I would like to thank my fellow Senators for all of their tireless work this session. As many of you know, the education space is an ever-evolving field and we are continuing to enact the necessary legislation to best satisfy the needs of all students and their families. As always, I am eager to hear from you on any thoughts or questions you may have. I look forward to the opportunities we will face next year.

Policy Breakdown - Dual Enrollment

We all know that dual enrollment can be a powerful tool for Wisconsin's high school students to advance in their educational goals in many potential fields. While Wisconsin has long allowed dual enrollment as a statutory matter, allowing dual enrollment and actually making it available to as many students as possible – in as many disciplines as possible – is another matter. In order to make these courses actually available, there must be teachers available that meet the qualification requirements of the Higher Learning Commission for eligibility to teach dual enrollment courses.

That is why I was pleased to help author and pass 2017 Senate Bill 711, which was recently signed into Law by Governor Walker as 2017 Wisconsin Act 206. The new initiative creates a grant program to assist high school teachers to receive the necessary qualifications. To be sure these opportunities are spread across the state, grants must be made to a variety of sizes of districts as well as at least one independent charter school and school in parental school choice program.

Dual enrollment can be a powerful tool to help students achieve their goals, no matter what types of endeavors the student is interested in. But we always must be mindful that creating such statutory avenues are only meaningful if we also ensure that our schools can actually make these avenues available. Act 206 is a good step in that direction.

In the News

No, Teacher Strikes Do Not Help Students, *Education Week*

35 Years Later, How 'A Nation at Risk' Continues to Change American Education, *The 74*

Where Do States Line Up On Aid for Title I, Title II?, *Education Week*

U.S. Public Schools Have Lost 20% Of Their Librarians Since 2000, *Forbes*

Making history through education reform, *Washington Examiner*



Secretary Bennett's View

Senator Luther Olsen has been a tireless advocate when it comes to creating more paths to success for our high school students. He has long understood that one-size does not fit all when it comes to getting our high schoolers off to a strong start towards careers, further education, or both. The idea that the only road for everyone is a traditional four-year degree program is simply not accurate – and even for those on that road can be made

much more affordable through strong dual enrollment policies.

What is interesting about Senator Olsen is that he fully understands that just creating state laws, such as dual enrollment, is not enough if many schools across the state lack the ability to actually offer these multiple pathways to students. Dual enrollment can only work when the specially qualified staffing is actually available to offer the properly certified courses. So Senator Olsen goes that extra mile and not only helps create these new pathways, but helps make sure schools then actually implement them and the students are actually served.



This newsletter was brought to you by Conservative Leaders for Education (CL4E), an organization comprised of leading state policymakers focused on ensuring conservative principles gain traction in legislatures across the country under the flexibility of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). To learn more about Senator Olsen, a founding member of the organization, and our other leadership please visit conservativeleaders4ed.org.

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