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To: All State Representatives  
FROM: Sheri Krause, Government Relations Specialist  
DATE: April 19, 2010  
RE: Senate Bill 437, extending the authority of the state superintendent to intervene in schools deemed “in need of improvement.”

The Wisconsin Association of School Boards encourages your support for amendments to Senate Bill 437, which is scheduled for a vote in the Assembly on Tuesday, April 20.

SB 437 would extend the authority of the state superintendent to intervene in schools deemed “in need of improvement.” While it would initially apply only to Milwaukee Public Schools, there is the potential for schools throughout the state to be affected in future years.

SB 437 includes numerous solid strategies the state superintendent can direct a school board to implement to improve student achievement. However, it does not provide school boards the resources or authority to directly implement the reforms. If this legislation goes forward, the WASB supports additional financial resources and relief from the outdated state caps on school district revenues along with flexibility from other state mandates that are not positively contributing to student achievement.

In addition, the **WASB supports amendments to SB 437** that would:

- **Allow the state superintendent to not be restricted by the current collective bargaining agreements when directing personnel or other changes in local school districts aimed at improving student achievement.**
- **Modify the teacher evaluation law to allow state assessment data to be used as one criteria in the removal of ineffective teachers as directed by the Race to the Top grant guidelines.**

Public education belongs to the public. Senate Bill 437 dramatically limits a community’s influence on the programs, curriculum, resource allocation and other aspects of its local schools. School boards, working with teachers, administrators, parents and other community members, are in the best position to bring about meaningful, long-term improvements.

Instead of granting the state superintendent the authority to order changes, the state should truly partner with locally elected school boards, who are directly accountable to their communities, and grant them the full authority, flexibility and resources to implement proven student achievement strategies. This approach would maximize community and staff involvement – an essential element of meaningful and long-lasting improvement.

Thank you for your consideration.