

September 25, 2020

The Honorable Robert Cowles
Room 118 South
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

The Honorable Samantha Kerkman
Room 315 North
State Capitol
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Cowles and Representative Kerkman:

The Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) in their report, *Best Practices for Transitioning from Virtual Instruction to In-Person Instruction*, requested that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee on the status of the recommendations contained in the report by September 30. Please see those recommendations below, with which the DPI concurred, along with an update on their status.

1. *Advise school districts and schools to review and potentially revise staff contracts and employment documents to reflect virtual instruction and flexible leave time policies, advise them to determine the level of staff and student absenteeism that will disrupt teaching and learning, and provide them with guidance on offering extracurricular activities that are not overseen by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association.*

DPI added the following considerations for district leadership the School Operations section of its return to school guidance, *Education Forward* (see <https://dpi.wi.gov/education-forward>):

- Review and potentially revise staff contracts and employment documents to reflect virtual instruction and flexible leave time policies.
- Determine the level of staff and student absenteeism that will disrupt teaching and learning.

DPI also wrote arts education guidance to support extracurricular activities that are not overseen by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association and added the

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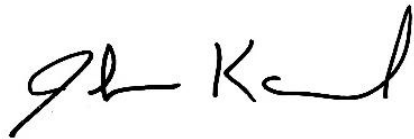
guidance in the Prepare and Implement sections of Teaching and Learning in *Education Forward*. Arts education includes art, dance, music, and theatre.

2. *Make its guidance easier for school districts and schools to use by labeling hyperlinks consistently and including an appendix or resource page that lists all hyperlink.*

DPI reviewed and edited *Education Forward* to ensure consistent naming and labeling of hyperlinks. The department also created a resource page that lists all hyperlinks and has posted this as the List of Compiled Resources in the Returning to Schools section of *Education Forward*.

If you have any questions, please contact Grant Huber, Legislative Liaison, Legislative and Policy Outreach Team, at (608) 267-2003 or grant.huber@dpi.wi.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JK", is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Jennifer Kammerud
Senior Policy Advisor

JK:tm