



State of Wisconsin
Jim Doyle, Governor
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent



NEWS RELEASE

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American Diploma Project praises Wisconsin's academic standards

Model Academic Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics are aligned with ADP benchmarks

MADISON—Governor Jim Doyle and State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster today announced that the newly proposed *Wisconsin Model Academic Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics* are closely aligned with national benchmarks.

The Department of Public Instruction undertook a revision of Wisconsin's high school standards in English language arts and mathematics in 2007 through the American Diploma Project (ADP). The ADP process is led by Achieve, an independent, bipartisan, non-profit education organization created in 1996 by the nation's governors and corporate leaders. The group helps states raise academic standards and graduation requirements, improve assessments, and strengthen accountability.

"ADP's endorsement of these new standards clearly demonstrates that Wisconsin is committed to moving in a direction of setting high standards for students preparing themselves for the workforce or for post secondary education," Governor Doyle said.

In a letter to the department, Achieve praised the level of rigor of the proposed revisions. "The proposed *Wisconsin Model Academic Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics* present student-learning expectations that are intellectually demanding and well aligned with the ADP benchmarks." The Wisconsin standards include the complete subset of 22 core benchmarks in English and 34 core benchmarks in mathematics identified as critical by 19 other ADP states.

(more)

Achieve also commended Wisconsin for its comprehensive standards revisions process conducted by design teams that included members of the PK-12, postsecondary, and business communities, and included public input from across the state. The proposed revisions are designed to guide classroom instruction at each grade level by setting detailed learning priorities across four grade bands: PK-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

“Wisconsin is to be commended for steps taken to add clarity and focus,” according to Laura Slover, Achieve Vice President for Content and Policy Research. “Wisconsin has taken an important step to better prepare young people for success in postsecondary education and their careers.”

“The work of the Leadership Team, Design Team, and standards writing teams make our statewide goals for classroom instruction and measures of assessment clear,” Burmaster said. “Students, along with their parents and teachers, will know what they need to learn in order to be successful in their future careers, their lifelong learning, and their role as involved citizens.”

State Superintendent-elect Tony Evers will continue this effort in a next step of embedding the national Common Core Standards, currently under development, with Wisconsin’s standards. “Following the strong endorsement of Wisconsin’s high school standards through the ADP alignment process, we expect to be well poised for adoption of the Common Core Standards,” he said. Evers noted that Wisconsin is among 46 states entering that process.

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More information about the revisions to Wisconsin’s Model Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics can be found at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/cal/standards-revisions.html>.