



Communiqué

at a Glance Edition

January 2015

School Accountability Bill AB 1 on Fast Track (Key components of AB1)

- Creates an unelected Academic Review Board with extraordinary powers that potentially violates the state Constitution, as it gives the review board authority reserved for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- Beginning in 2017, establishes a new school report card system based on letter grades and with different criteria than the current system.
- Requires schools scoring 'D' or 'F' for three years to follow an improvement plan, and if adequate progress toward the goals are not met after four years, voucher and independent charter schools would lose state funding and **public schools would be converted to privately run independent charters**. Private voucher schools whose funding was pulled would be allowed to re-apply to join the program after four years.
- **No state resources are provided to schools placed on improvement plans.**
- Allows schools to pick their own tests for use in determining report card, paving the way for vouchers to choose the test results that are most beneficial for reporting purposes.

What You Can Do

- **E-mail your Legislator indicating** *"I oppose the Assembly School Accountability Bill that jeopardizes the future of our neighborhood public schools while favoring unaccountable private voucher schools. Our children deserve a thoughtful, deliberative, inclusive approach to school accountability."*
- Go to www.WEAC.org click the Take Action Tab and use the cyber lobby process for ease of messaging and quick access to legislator's e-mail.

Job Well Done

- Teacher members from Arcadia, Whitehall and Independence met with Representative Chris Danou in December to begin an ongoing conversation concerning the state of public schools in Wisconsin.

Association Happenings

- Members from **the La Crosse EA** are meeting with Representative Billings in January to discuss the state of K-12 education.
- We are looking for a few willing members from schools within Lee Nerison's Assembly District to meet and begin a conversation with him about public schools in his area. If interested contact roxie@crue-wi.org.

Anticipated Upcoming Legislation

- School Accountability
- Expanding Vouchers
- Replacing Common Core
- WRS Changes

TALKING POINTS FOR EDUCATORS ON ACCOUNTABILITY BILL:

- If we want to help children in under-performing schools, we need to improve our neighborhood public schools so every child has a good public school to attend no matter where they live or what their family circumstances are.
- Assembly Bill 1 doesn't accomplish that, and lawmakers need to go back to the drawing board.