



SCOTT WALKER
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 7863
MADISON, WI 53707

September 13, 2017

Dr. Tony Evers
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
125 S. Webster Street
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Superintendent Evers,

As you submit your plan to the Department of Education in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act, my administration would like to discuss concerns we have with the plan. Because of these concerns, I did not sign the draft plan you submitted to my office.

The Every Student Succeeds Act allows greater flexibility for states in education policy. Congress replaced the restrictive No Child Left Behind Act with this law so states could craft innovative policies to improve education outcomes.

Your bureaucratic proposal does little to challenge the status quo for the benefit of Wisconsin's students. For example, under the law, a "rigorous intervention" is required for low-performing schools. In your plan, schools may simply implement an improvement plan created under the supervision of the Department of Public Instruction. I hope you will agree that adding layers of bureaucratic paperwork does little to help low-performing schools.

Other states are using their plans to drive improvement through bold reforms. For example, Tennessee's plan, which has already been approved by the Department of Education, supports creative reforms, using innovations such as Achievement School Districts and Innovation Zones to support efforts to reform low-performing schools.

On other issues, such as welfare and parental choice in education, our state is recognized as a national leader. It is because we took action in the face of government special interests. We urge you to take this opportunity to make Wisconsin a reform leader yet again and resubmit a new proposal that allows our schools to innovate and students to succeed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Walker".

Scott Walker
Governor