

News Release

Education Information Services ■ 125 South Webster Street ■ P.O. Box 7841 ■ Madison, WI 53707-7841 ■ (608) 266-3559

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Contact: Patrick Gasper, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

Statement on Race to the Top application

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers joined Governor Jim Doyle in Milwaukee today to announce that Wisconsin’s application for the first round of federal Race to the Top funding will not move forward as a finalist for an award at this time.

“We look forward to reviewing the U.S. Department of Education’s report evaluating our application. Last month, we convened groups of stakeholders and leaders to work on our application goals, and they will now focus on improving and building a stronger application for the second round of awards. In this effort, we have had overwhelming support from the school districts across our state, with more than 97 percent joining our application.

“While our schools have done well overall, we know and understand they must continue to improve.

Wisconsin’s Race to the Top application set clear goals that we will use to advance public education to:

- increase graduation rates,
- reduce the achievement gap, and
- help our teachers and principals become the most effective educators that they can be.

“Let me be clear, we are not waiting for word or money from Washington to begin work on transforming education in Wisconsin. We are working with our local school leaders, educators, parents, and other leaders across the state, especially here in our largest school district, Milwaukee, to ensure every child is a graduate prepared for further education and the workplace.

“Clearly one of the areas we will need to address in a subsequent application is the readiness of Milwaukee to embrace reform. I attended the Senate Education Committee hearing at MPS on reform efforts a few weeks ago when all sides agreed that the status quo is not sustainable. I agree, so let’s find a way to send the message to the federal government that we are serious about reform.”

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NOTE: This statement is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2010_34.pdf. Additional information about Wisconsin’s Race to the Top application is available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sprntdnt/racetothetop.html>.