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02/01/25

Re: the League of Women Voters of WI opposes AB1

1. The new assessment cut scores better reflect how students are performing in the classroom.

The new cut scores, which separate students' assessment scores into the four different performance levels, are more in line with educator perceptions of student achievement. The majority of Wisconsin students are doing grade level work based on local assessment results and teacher evaluations of students.

Recent updates to statewide assessments more accurately reflect where Wisconsin students perform academically in public and choice schools so that parents get results that make sense to them in relation to what their children are being taught at their grade level in school.

Our Wisconsin standards are set by grade level, so our statewide assessment performance levels should reflect where students are based on these Wisconsin standards.

2. The new cut scores and performance level terms are more conducive to student and school improvement.

The new cut scores better show opportunity gaps (or differences in student performance) and areas for improvement.

The new performance level terms provide clear information for students and parents that avoid the use of negative labels that are likely to decrease student motivation and be detrimental to student mental health.

3. Practicing educators have been involved in assessment updates, including the new cut scores, from the very beginning. Practicing educators have been part of the entire academic standards, test development and performance standard setting processes.

4. Assessment updates fit within the larger cycle of academic standards, instruction, assessments, and accountability. The DPI changes fit a coherent system of standards, instruction, assessment, and accountability that accurately informs parents and supports school improvement. They are also consistent with, the state Forward Exam and align with expectations from grade 3 to grade 11.

5. The report card changes under the bill are unnecessary and DPI is best positioned to manage the report card system.