



# Alberta Darling

Wisconsin State Senator · District 8

## Testimony before the Senate Committee on Education

Senate Bill 589: Foundations for Reading test

10/14/2021

Thank you committee members for hearing testimony on Senate Bill 589.

In order to qualify for a Provisional Educator License in Wisconsin for grades kindergarten to five you must pass the Foundations of Reading test (FORt). Current law specifically identifies the 2012 version of the FORt. Effective August 2022, the administrator of the FORt examination will no longer offer the 2012 version of the examination. This bill allows for passage of the most up to date version of the FORt be accepted to qualify for a teacher license

It is important we move quickly on the bill so current prospective teachers know obtaining a license will not be jeopardized next year. Currently, over 20 states require a test that fully measures the candidate's knowledge of the science of reading. 8 of these states specifically use the FORt. It is vital we make sure our educators demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the science of reading instruction.

As Wisconsin continues to see low proficiency scores in reading now is not the time to go backwards by getting rid of the test. Thank you for taking the time to hear Senate Bill 589. I hope to count on your support for the important bill.



# Jeff Mursau

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 36<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Senate Committee on Education  
SB 589 - the Foundations of Reading Test Licensure Requirement

October 14, 2021

Chairperson Darling and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 589, which relates to the Foundations of Reading Test licensure requirement. I appreciate your willingness to bring this bill forward.

Since January, 2014, our current statutes require individuals who want to teach grades K-5, special education, reading or reading specialist, or at a Montessori school, to pass the 2012 Foundations of Reading Test (FORT). The test is required for licensure and demonstrates a proficiency in this specific issue area.

However, the Administrator of FORT is updating the exam and effective August, 2022 they will no longer be using the 2012 test. Because our statutes explicitly require the 2012 test, we are in jeopardy of not being able to properly license teachers seeking to teach in these specific areas of their profession.

This legislation simply updates Wisconsin's statutory language to allow applicants to pass the 2012 version or the most recent edition of the FORT.

Once again, thank you for holding a public hearing on this important piece of legislation.