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DRAFT LETTER NO. 4

December 17, 2012

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Evers
Department of Public Instruction
125 South Webster Street
Madison, WI 53707-7841

Dear Superintendent Evers:

We are writing in our capacity as Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Improving Educational Opportunities in High School. The Special Committee is directed to develop legislation to create and enhance opportunities for both lower and higher achieving students in high school. Specifically, the Special Committee is directed to evaluate current options available to high school students for both career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment, including the Youth Options Program; examine both career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment options available to high school students in other states; and determine how to promote coordination between high schools, technical colleges, universities, and employers to ensure that high school students have the skills necessary to meet the workforce needs of employers in this state.

The Special Committee has been very interested in learning about alternative pathways for individuals who have not received an education degree from a college or university to obtain a license to teach in a high school. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has been extremely helpful in educating the Special Committee about alternative pathways to licensure including the license based on equivalency or experience, the alternative route pathway to obtain a license to teach in shortage areas such as math, and the ability of school districts to provide alternative methods of teacher certification.

However, the Special Committee determined that school districts need more information and assistance regarding all of the current alternative pathways to licensure. To that end, the

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Special Committee requests that DPI increase its efforts to effectively communicate information regarding alternative pathways to teacher licensure to all school districts in the state.

In addition, the Special Committee appreciates the efforts of DPI to create alternative pathways for teacher licensure and encourages DPI to continue its efforts in this regard, including efforts to increase flexibility in teacher certification with respect to interdisciplinary instruction.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Senator Luther Olsen, Chair
Special Committee on Improving
Educational Opportunities in High School

Representative Paul Farrow, Vice Chair
Special Committee on Improving
Educational Opportunities in High School

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