



March 16, 2018

Dear Superintendent Tony Evers,

The Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers (WSST) is a non-profit, membership organization dedicated to the advancement of science education in the State of Wisconsin. A state affiliate of the National Science Teachers Association, WSST's membership is comprised of 750 science educators as well as many business partners with interests in Wisconsin science education. The latest Program for International Student Assessment report indicates that United States' students are falling further behind in science literacy compared to their counterparts in other countries: 22 in 2013 and 26 in 2015 (NCES, 2016). One of the goals of STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, Math), which incorporates science literacy, is to get American students from the middle of the pack in science to the top of the pack in the international arena (Holm, 2014).

School programs K-12 should be designed to ensure that all graduates are STEM literate (WI DPI 2017). WSST supports STEM literacy and agrees with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction that all levels of schooling need to be held accountable for STEM implementation. STEM learning prepares students for college and career pursuits which in turn strengthens communities across Wisconsin (WI DPI 2017). STEM goals can be accomplished within science classrooms when following the new Wisconsin Standards for Science. Science educators need Report Card data to help guide professional development for STEM design.

Wisconsin schools have shifted Science minutes to Math, Reading and Writing because Science is not on the State Report Card. Since science is absent from the Wisconsin Report Card, WSST and its members are concerned that teachers are postponing scheduled time to learn science so they can devote additional time to Reading, Writing and Mathematics. WSST members have reported their districts have reduced time for learning science at all grade levels. WSST believes schools may be falling short of STEM goals set forth by the DPI due to this sacrificed time in science. Adding Science to the State Report Card will show the world audience how Wisconsin values the Sciences.

WSST expects science to be a part of the Wisconsin Report Card so administrators and teachers will devote equitable time for STEM education. This inclusion will increase science competency across the curricula and move Wisconsin forward as a worldwide leader in STEM education.

Thank you for your consideration of increasing the importance of science in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Ray Scolavino  
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