



## Department of Standards, Assessment, and Accountability

**Date:** May 29, 2008  
**To:** Dr. Jackson Parker, Interim Superintendent  
Board of Education  
News Media  
**From:** Dr. Marguerite Vanden Wyngaard, Chief Academic Officer  
Dr. Stephen Miller, Director of Standards, Assessment, and Accountability  
**Subject:** **WKCE Media Information**

This memo is regarding November, 2007, WKCE results for Racine Unified School District. As a “good” district, we are continuing our commitment to becoming a “great” district and remain focused on teaching and learning.

### **Changes in the WKCE 2007 Annual Measurable Objectives:**

The Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) in Reading and Math, the percent of students who scored Proficient and Advanced established by the Department of Public Instruction as an accountability measure under the No Child Left Behind legislation, were raised in the 2007-2008 school year from **67.5% to 74% in Reading and from 47.5% to 58% in Math.**

### **Notable points:**

1. Cohort group growth results (ex. – Grade 3 in the previous school year and grade 4 in the current school year) indicate that RUSD students matched or exceeded the state’s growth performance at grades 4-5 and 7-8 in Reading, as well as in grades 3-4 and 6-7 in Math.
2. At the District level, the AMO was achieved at grade 6 in Reading and at grades 4, 6, and 7 in Math.
3. The consistent downward trend for middle and high schools appears to be stabilized as illustrated by the current results.

### **Challenges:**

All buildings at a variety of grade levels, subgroup populations, and other indicators continue to have performance issues related to WKCE that appear to be somewhat random.

## **Strategies:**

1. Individual Student Profile Reports for the WKCE were sent to schools for distribution to parents/guardians in late February. Directing Principals and Central Office Administrators were provided online confidential access to WKCE results during late March. School and District results were shared in confidence with Central Office staff and Principals during April to determine how to proceed with using these results for instructional improvement.
2. Building leaders with their staff, in collaboration with Area Superintendents, will be expected to use WKCE data to create strategic school improvement plans that target specific actions in response to the WKCE results.
3. In partnership with REA, REAA and SEIU 152, we will be holding focus groups to determine what salient issues were present during the testing window in the fall of 2007. In addition, we will be looking for strategies used by some leadership teams in buildings that proved to be successful in motivating students to do well in all district and state assessment initiatives.
4. We will be investigating further the positive indicators of growth as identified with NWEA-MAP and the limited results as demonstrated on the WKCE exams.
5. We are working under the assumption that we have to continue to align curriculum for scope and sequence (what and when), provide professional learning for all teachers and educational assistants in support of our instructional strategies (Continuous Progress for elementary and Instructional Process for secondary), and continue to write end of grade and end of course assessments to ensure that all students are taught standards-based curriculum. We are optimistic that our recent elementary reading program adoption will greatly assist this effort.

Cc: Area Superintendents  
Jeff Weiss, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Stephanie Hayden, Director of Communications