

MTEA/WEAC issue joint statement on legislation to improve low-performing schools

Posted: 4/12/2010 1:05:00

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

[Kristin Collett](#), MTEA
414.259.1990

[Christina Brey](#), WEAC
608.298.2519

The [Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association](#) (MTEA) and the [Wisconsin Education Association Council](#) (WEAC) congratulate the state Legislature for passing legislation to help improve struggling schools in MPS and across the state. The bill provides the state superintendent with a substantial role in steps to help students succeed in schools and districts most in need of support and additional resources.

Mike Langyel, president of the MTEA, said, "We believe this legislation can help improve academic achievement in MPS and lead to changes that increase the district's ability to attract and retain the best teachers, and expand educational opportunities for students."

"We congratulate the legislature for doing the right thing for the students and families in our public schools," he said.

The legislation includes a number of reforms that MTEA and WEAC have sought: professional development and support for teachers and administrators, comprehensive wrap-around services for students and families, strategic parent outreach and education programs, and opportunities for the community and educators to be involved in the decisions that impact the schools.

Mary Bell, president of WEAC, the state's largest union of educators, agreed. "This is an example of what can be accomplished when communities, parents, educators and elected leaders work together on behalf of children," she said. "I thank the Legislature for taking a pivotal step forward in education reform. In passing this bill, legislators recognized that it provides substantial and sustainable changes which will serve our students well."

-end-