

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

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association (MTEA) and the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC) today expressed their support for proposed legislation aimed at improving low-performing schools. The legislation includes initiatives designed to increase student learning in the classroom, such as using a consistent and rigorous curriculum and meaningful collaboration between school leaders and staff.

Mike Langyel, president of the Milwaukee union, said, "Educators in Milwaukee want a teaching and learning environment where they and their students can be successful. This proposed legislation focuses on real reforms like meaningful professional development and support for school staff, comprehensive wrap-around services, increased educational opportunities for our students, strategic parent outreach and education programs, and robust levels of community and educator engagement in the decisions that impact public education in our city," he said. "These are very positive steps in the right direction."

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 am optimistic that this is moving forward and pleased that the process recognizes the importance of engaging educators.

"All along, Wisconsin's educators have embraced the idea of reform – but our students need meaningful, sustainable changes, not quick fixes," Bell added. "We believe this legislation can help all of us work together to achieve the changes our children need."

While the proposed legislation would impact only Milwaukee Public Schools currently, the measures provide a framework for struggling schools everywhere in Wisconsin.