



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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**DPI Reading Report**  
**WSRA Executive Committee Meeting: November 2006**

***Into the Book***  
**Congratulations!**

“Into the Book” premiered on Wednesday, October 25, at 9:00 AM on public television statewide. This project is another of many that would not have been possible without the support of WSRA. As you know, WSRA is the strong foundation of reading education in our state. Much gratitude and special thanks for the thoughtful ideas and endless dedication of WSRA past presidents, Mike Ford and Deb Zaring, and WSRA members, Penny Antell, Linda Diaz, Cheri Polster, Roni Telfer, and Lisa Wiedmann who served on the advisory committee. Mike also served as host for “Behind the Lesson” as well as teacher in one of the episodes and shared his musical talents. Linda and Cheri are featured, each in an episode of “Behind the Lesson.”

Thanks to WSRA members Marta Bechtol, Peggy Garties, and Kristin Leglar, who serve, respectively, as Director of School Services, Multimedia Analyst, and Instructional Program Developer, all with Wisconsin Educational Communications Board. Together, they ensured that the project was completed with great success. Kristin is also featured in an episode of “Behind the Lesson” with her former colleague, Jennifer Ingebritsen, a WSRA member. Marni Pingel plays the role of the teacher in “Into the Book” and is a teacher with Oshkosh Area School District. She, too, is a WSRA member and is also featured in an episode of “Behind the Lesson.” Special thanks to Marni for her wonderful performance and commitment to the project. Thanks too, to WSRA member, Jana Brayton Gaffney who appears with Marni in an episode of “Behind the Lesson.” Finally, thanks to all additional educators, all project members, and especially to the children in the cast of “Into the Book” who contributed to the success of this outstanding project. Congratulations!

**Telecast Information**

Schools can obtain these two programs, each with nine episodes, free of charge by recording the telecasts and retaining the recordings for later use. Both series will be available for a nominal fee from ECB’s Tape Dubbing Service after their initial broadcast in October 2006 <http://www.ecb.org/education/tapedub.htm>.

“Into the Book” features students modeling how to use learning strategies with Oshkosh Area School District elementary teacher, Marni Pingel, as the teacher for this public television program designed for K-3 students. The second and third weekly broadcasts of “Into the Book” begin on Wednesday, February 7, 2007, at 9:45 AM and Friday, February 9, 2007, at 11:00 AM. Another block schedule broadcast begins with four programs on April 24, 2007, at 1:00 PM until 2:00 PM, four on May 1 at 1:00 PM until 2:00 PM, and the ninth episode on May 8 at 1:00 PM. For broadcast details and additional information, link to [http://explore.ecb.org/ecbschema/plsql/IDEA3D?THE\\_NOLA1=2ITB](http://explore.ecb.org/ecbschema/plsql/IDEA3D?THE_NOLA1=2ITB).

*Into the Book* includes an accompanying professional development series, “Behind the Lesson,” featuring elementary teachers demonstrating how they are using these strategies effectively with their students. “Behind the Lesson” is hosted by Mike Ford, Professor of Reading Education, UW Oshkosh. The second, live, block schedule broadcast of the nine episodes of “Behind the Lesson” will be on Wednesday, April 18, beginning at 1:00 AM until 2:40 AM.

## **Web Development**

Development of the website will continue this fall. To date, a pilot representing a small portion of the materials proposed for the site provides teacher resources including video clips and an interactive student activity for the strategy of visualizing. The web resources are also free and can be found at <http://reading.ecb.org>.

The Into the Book Advisory Committee meets on Monday, November 13, 2006, with Dave Schaller, the founding partner of Eduweb, the company that assists with website development. Find examples of Eduweb's award-winning work at <http://www.eduweb.com/>. You may enjoy reviewing some of their interactive web adventures such as the stimulation, Build-a-Fish, designed for grades 3-6 [http://www.sheddaquarium.org/sea/interactive\\_module.cfm?id=7](http://www.sheddaquarium.org/sea/interactive_module.cfm?id=7), or learning games such as Pest World for Kids, designed for grades K-5 <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/learninggames.html>.

## **Project Support and Contact Information**

This project is being developed by the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and a team of Wisconsin educators. It is produced by Wisconsin Public Television and the Agency for Instructional Technology.

Wisconsin Educational Communications Board contacts:

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## **Coming in 2007: *Adolescent Learning Toolkit***

A new DPI publication, *Adolescent Learning Toolkit*, scheduled to be available in early 2007, is designed to help middle and high school educators strengthen and improve instruction for their adolescent students, specifically in reading and mathematics. The three sections of the toolkit address: 1) developing reading skills in the content areas, 2) teaching and learning in mathematics, and 3) using resources and tools to make changes on a school level.

As always, this publication would not be possible without the support of WSRA. Much gratitude and special thanks for the development of this new toolkit to WSRA past presidents, Doug Buehl, Brenda Shearer, Pat Sowls, and Deb Zaring, and WSRA members Sue Haertel, Dawnene Hassett, Sharyn Stumpf, and Lisa Wiedmann. Faced with a short timeline for development, WSRA members developed outstanding resources that will help educators improve reading instruction. In the first section of the toolkit, Doug and Sharyn developed two chapters: Learning Strategies and Literacy Demands in Content Classrooms. Sue, Pat, Lisa, and Deb along with another Wisconsin educator developed the chapter, Learning with Understanding. Pat and Deb also wrote the vocabulary chapter. Dawnene developed a chapter that focuses on new literacies titled, Reading Online and in Hypertext. In the section of the toolkit that focuses on making change at the school level, Brenda authored the reading portion of the chapter, Nature of Change; and wrote two additional chapters, Role of the Literacy Coach and Role of the Reading Specialist. Congratulations to all who helped develop the toolkit!

This publication offers specific teaching strategies and resources to help educators strengthen their practice. In 2007, the toolkit will be available through DPI publications for \$30 in Wisconsin and \$45 out-of-state <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/pubsales/index.html>.

## **CCSSO's ESEA Reauthorization Policy Statement**

On October 16, 2006, at a news conference on Capitol Hill, the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) released its Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Reauthorization Policy Statement. The policy statement reflects the core principles CCSSO believes should guide the reauthorization of ESEA. The document urges Congress to promote meaningful accountability along with greater support for innovation to improve student achievement.

"States are ready to move beyond no child left behind to every child a graduate, but they need greater flexibility and resources to implement the next steps in standards-based reform," says Elizabeth Burmaster, Wisconsin state superintendent of public instruction and CCSSO ESEA Reauthorization Task Force chair. "Dramatically increasing student achievement will require a new and meaningful state-federal partnership—one in which states and districts lead."

Core recommendations from the policy statement include:

- 1) retaining a focus on accountability with increased support and greater freedom for state and local implementation of the foundations of standards-based reform,
- 2) offering greater support for state capacity and flexibility for states and districts to leverage the foundations of standards-based reforms to improve teaching and learning, and
- 3) investing in innovation, research, technical assistance, and collaboration to inform state and local implementation of standards-based reforms.

Read the October press release and link to the complete policy statement at [http://www.ccsso.org/Whats\\_New/Press\\_Releases/9029.cfm](http://www.ccsso.org/Whats_New/Press_Releases/9029.cfm).

## **New Wisconsin Promise Conference**

The DPI New Wisconsin Promise Conference is January 9-10, 2007, at Monona Terrace, Madison. Featured speakers include: Rick and Becky DuFour and Douglas Reeves. This year will include a pre-conference on January 8, 2007, at Monona Terrace featuring Rick and Becky DuFour with their session titled, Building the Collaborative Culture of a Professional Learning Community, and J.P. Leary and Adrienne Thunder conducting a workshop titled, Teaching for Change: Recognizing and Overcoming Stereotypical Representations.

Register online at <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/nwp/registration07.html>. Registration fees for the two days of the conference are as follows:

- A single fee covers both January 9 and January 10. No fee reduction is available for a registrant who wishes to attend only one day.
- Through December 8, 2006, the early bird registration fee is \$100 per person.
- From December 9 through December 22 the registration fee is \$125 per person.
- Online registration ends on December 22 at 4:00 p.m.
- Registration fees are waived for up to three persons from each District Identified for Improvement (DIFI) and each School Identified for Improvement (SIFI).

## **State Superintendent's High School Summit**

State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster convened a statewide summit promoting best practices for effective 21st century high schools in Wisconsin. The conference was held on Wednesday, November 8, 2006, at the Marriott Madison West in Middleton, Wisconsin. The purpose of this one-day summit was to

disseminate task force recommendations and highlight current initiatives and best practices in Wisconsin that are aligned with these recommendations.

The State Superintendent appointed a statewide High School Task Force in February 2005 to ensure that Wisconsin high school students continue to graduate with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in postsecondary education, the high-skills workplace, and as active citizens in their community. Seventy education advocates and leaders, including students, parents, teachers, and high school principals, along with business and community representatives from across the state, were appointed to the task force. The task force was charged with looking at national models and various local initiatives aimed at redesigning the high school experience, enhancing student learning and engagement, and strengthening the alignment of high school with postsecondary education and workforce needs.

At the Summit, the State Superintendent and task force members unveiled the recommendations to redesign Wisconsin high schools. Educators from around the state shared best practices focusing around:

- Encouraging educators and policymakers to move outside of existing structures and pursue innovation.
- Giving students the opportunity to engage in rigorous, authentic learning experiences that are relevant to their learning needs and future ambitions.
- Creating smaller, personalized learning environments and requiring personal learning and lifelong education plans for individual students.
- Promoting and enhancing partnerships among schools, parents, businesses, and communities, linking community resources with school programs and curriculum.

## **Responsive Education for All Children (REACH) Initiative**

DPI has awarded about \$1,430,000 to 42 districts and 8 consortia led by CESAs. Find awardees and award amounts for this year at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/reach/adm-awd2007.html>. Every district that receives a grant also receives time with a trained REACH mentor to work with district and school leadership teams at no cost to the district. For additional details on the grant recipients, an [Excel spreadsheet](#) is available for download.

Professional development and technical assistance centers involving all CESAs organized in four statewide clusters are also available: Northwest-North Central - (CESAs 9, 10, 11, and 12); Northeast-Central - (CESAs 6, 7, and 8); Southwest-South – (CESAs 2, 3, and 4); Southeast-Central – (CESAs 1 and 5).

Please recall that the annual REACH grant cycle begins each spring when applicants complete the required application forms and submit them to DPI. Grants are reviewed and awarded in summer. REACH grant application guidelines and materials are posted at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/reach/>.

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