

A GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

GROWING PEOPLE, JOBS, & COMMUNITIES

Growth Agenda Action Step # 7:

Collaborate with PK-12 Community to Enrich College Preparation in Math

Brief summary: Greater collaboration between the higher education community and the PK-12 education community will increase the number of students who enter the state's universities prepared for success. The UW System is working collaboratively with the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), and the PK-12 community to address math preparation for Wisconsin students as they progress from school, to college, and beyond. The focus is on identifying competencies needed for college preparation and aligning those with academic standards for high school.

Progress to date and future plans:

- **Math Competency Alignment:** A task force consisting of math educators from UW System, WTCS, WAICU, and PK-12 will develop a common set of competencies across Wisconsin's postsecondary institutions for entry into credit coursework and align them with high school graduation standards.
- **Early Math Placement Tool:** The goal is statewide implementation of the Early Math Placement Tool, which would provide high school students with a means of determining how well prepared they are to handle college-level math early enough to enable them to take additional math coursework in high school. A pilot of the Early Math Placement Tool will be conducted with approximately 100 high schools around the state.
- **PK-16 Local Math Partnerships:** Grant proposals have been encouraged from the Growth Agenda Grant Fund to support partnerships between UW faculty and staff and high school educators to promote effective teaching and learning in mathematics.
- **Identifying and Sharing Math Performance Data:** A committee will analyze how to get student placement tests and other relevant student performance data into the hands of appropriate high school and college faculty, advisors, and administrators to help them assess how well students are prepared for college and how successful they are once they enroll.
- **Sharing Best Practices:** An "Effective Practices Conference" is planned for the 2009-10 academic year.

Related activities:

This work is closely connected to the American Diploma Project, the Early Math Placement Tool (EMPT), the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) Project to enhance assessment of teacher preparation in mathematics, and the Teacher Education Initiative funded in fiscal year 2007-09.

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