



# GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

*Access • Affordability • Growth*

## Early Math Placement Test

The UW System is requesting funding to revamp the Early Math Placement Testing (EMPT) program.

### **What is the Early Math Placement Test?**

The EMPT is designed to measure the current math skills level of college bound high school juniors by:

- 1) Informing students about their level of math skills versus college math placement, the math requirements of college, and math requirements of specific majors;
- 2) Providing a preview of UW placement testing similar to the PSAT or PACT;
- 3) Encouraging students to take a mathematics course during their senior year, as well as take math more seriously; and
- 4) Assisting with college preparation by providing individualized feedback reports and post-test counseling by math teachers.

### **What are the benefits of the Early Math Placement Test?**

The re-configured EMPT would be administered through a computer interface. High school teachers could choose to use the test class-wide or could offer it to individual students. In addition, the EMPT would self-score and provide feedback to the student on the spot.

### **What would the Early Math Placement Test mean for Wisconsin?**

The EMPT was developed in the mid-1980s as a result of the large number of incoming University of Wisconsin students who required remedial mathematics attention. As a consequence of being placed in remedial math, students must take extra courses which do not apply toward their degree requirements as well as pay a fee for these courses in addition to their regular tuition. Thus, a deficiency costs a student both time and money. (NOTE: Remedial courses are entirely supported by tuition and fees, with no GPR support.)

The original EMPT was discontinued in 2001, not for of a lack of satisfaction with the test, but because of a lack of funding. In follow-up studies in each of the years that the EMPT was administered, it was found that for those students who participated in the EMPT and then enrolled at a UW institution, there was a distinctly lower percentage scoring in the remedial range on the UW Math Placement Test.

**Estimated ongoing cost:** \$130,000 GPR

**For more information:** Contact UW System Communications and External Relations, 608-263-5512