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October 1, 2019

To: Senator Dale Kooyenga
Senate Chair, Committee on Universities, Technical Colleges, Children and Families

Representative David Murphy
Assembly Chair, Committee on Colleges and Universities

State Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Fr: Ray Cross 

Re: Legislated Remedial Course Report (2015 WI ACT 28)

In accordance with Chapter 36.65(5)(b)(2) of the Wisconsin State Statutes, accompanying this letter is the 2018 UW System Remedial Courses Report. The referenced statute requires the UW System to “determine the high schools with more than 6 students who, based on their performance on placement tests in the preceding 12 months, are required to take remedial courses in English or mathematics” and to submit a report to the legislature and state superintendent. Please find the attached.

The UW System historically has provided feedback to Wisconsin high schools on graduates who entered UW System institutions. In collaboration with ACT, Inc, the UW System and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) provided the ACT High-School-to-College Success Reports to high schools every three years. Currently, UW System is working with the Wisconsin DPI to expand data exchange to include information on student preparation and college outcomes, which will be available on DPI’s WiseDash Portal or another DPI reporting platform.

Information provided to Wisconsin high schools on the readiness and progress of their graduates at the post-secondary level is intended to help administrators evaluate and strengthen their efforts to prepare students for success. This type of feedback to the Wisconsin education partners helps foster communications align the curriculum and reduce the need for remedial education. We are pleased to be engaged with our secondary education partners in these efforts.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

c: UW Board of Regents
UW Chancellors
UW System President’s Cabinet
Ben Passmore, Associate Vice President, Policy Analysis and Research, UW System