



Report of the Board's Delegate to the
Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB)

August 2020

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Attached to this report is the June 2020 newsletter of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards. This newsletter is an important statement in support of the obligation of school districts to provide bilingual services.

The demographics in school districts around the state and country have changed in recent years. More districts have seen a growth in the number of children coming to school who speak little or no English. This demographic shift is occurring in school districts both large and small as well as in areas that are urban, rural, and suburban.

While many districts understand the need to meet their legal obligations to provide English-language learners with a fair and equitable access to high quality education, I have been speaking up, strongly suggesting that we go beyond the civil rights protections and promote bilingualism for all students in the state. See my quote on the first page of this newsletter.

It is an important milestone that we are talking about bilingualism in state organizations like WASB (one of the most influential lobbying organizations in Wisconsin). Board members also receive a copy of the Racial Justice Statement by WASB.

Following, we created an Equity Task Force, of which I am a member, for the state and have discussed in the Task Force the idea of creating a "standing" Task Force on Racial Justice and Equity for the state. This newsletter is a part of the Executive Board's Commitment to equity and academic excellence for all.

Respectfully submitted,
Director Baez