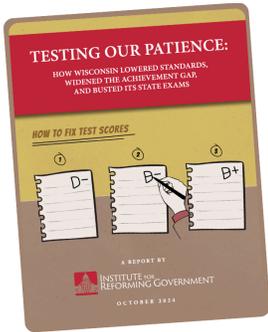




"TESTING OUR PATIENCE: How Wisconsin Lowered Standards, Widened the Achievement Gap, and Busted its State Exams"



IRG's CIO team compiled 16 months of emails into "[Testing Our Patience](#)," a bombshell report **released in October 2024** that has legislators and reporters aghast. How, when, and why DPI made these changes are now exposed in the spotlight. IRG caught Superintendent Jill Underly insulting bipartisan, IRG-influenced reading work as "nonsense," being confused about basic aspects of her job, and meddling to make poor rural and urban schools look worse.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

IRG's work was so powerful that the media had to acknowledge it when analyzing 2024 test scores. The [74 piece](#), which broke the story nationally, is their best-performing story of 2024. **IRG's work has a national reach.**

Other Highlights: [WPR](#): New Wisconsin standards label nearly half of students at grade level in math and reading, [The Center Square](#): Report: [Wisconsin public school leaders warned against changing state test scores](#) and [Critics call jump in Wisconsin standardized test scores 'ludicrous](#), [Radio Interviews:](#) [WSAU](#), [WIBA](#), & [WJMJ](#)

IMPACT

Are oversight hearings next? Our report caught the attention of influencers and lawmakers. We led the messaging throughout the week in the state when DPI released the test scores.



- **Radio Show Host Steve Scaffidi:** "You've got some great employees at IRG."

- **Senator John Jagler:** "Questions we will

[be] asking: Why changes were made? Why move to lower standards? (Even Governor Evers disagrees with this) Why make it impossible to track data from previous years? And just what about Act 20 does the Superintendent find to be nonsense?"

- **Representative Barb Ditttrich:** "Parents, do not be deceived by the DPI's manipulation of achievement levels. This only hurts our struggling students further. And for heaven's sake, follow Quinton Klapon for clear answers on what's really happening in our schools!"



Institute for Reforming Government @ReformingGovt · Oct 8
BREAKING: Today's K-12 test scores confirm IRG CIO report. Read our full release here: reforminggovernment.org/new-biased-sta...