



Jake Curtis <jc@reforminggovernment.org>

Dairyland Sentinel - DPI Correspondence 2/6/25

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **DPI Media Inquiries** <Media.Inquiries@dpi.wi.gov>
Date: Thu, Feb 6, 2025 at 9:24 AM
Subject: RE: Media Inquiry - On Deadline
To: Dairyland Sentinel <info@dairylandsentinel.com>
CC: DPI Media Inquiries <Media.Inquiries@dpi.wi.gov>

Brian,

The participant list you request is publicly available and has been publicly available [here in this report](#) that has posted to [this page of our website](#). Sounds like you'll be looking at Page 322, and you will see the long list of experts who took part in this standard setting, which is a routine process that takes place. As we detailed and as Dr. Underly has stated, these experts represent private Choice schools, charter schools, CESAs, rural, urban, and suburban public school districts. I appreciate you including that full context verbatim.

Additionally, I strongly encourage you to check out [this one-page resource](#) that details this routine, transparent process, in addition to the other publicly-available resources [on our website](#) – they may be very helpful for your reporting.

To your question on your records request, I can confirm that the DPI has received your request, and will fulfill it as soon as practicable. If the DPI ultimately denies your request in whole or in part, the DPI will notify you with the reasons for any denial.

I hope this all helps. Thanks!



Chris Bucher

Interim Communications Director | Education Information Services

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

<201 W Washington Ave | Madison, WI | 53703>

(608) 266-1344 | dpi.wi.gov

From: Dairyland Sentinel <info@dairylandsentinel.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 7:49 AM

To: DPI Media Inquiries <Media.Inquiries@dpi.wi.gov>; Underly, Jill K. DPI <Jill.Underly@dpi.wi.gov>

Subject: Media Inquiry - On Deadline

You don't often get email from info@dairylandsentinel.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

On January 21st, I submitted the open records request, below.

This is an official request for comment to the Dairyland Sentinel, which will be published, verbatim, today.

I have a 3pm deadline.

These two questions are for the Superintendent or her spokesperson.

1. Who were the "nearly 100 experts" who recommended the Forward Exam benchmark changes?

2. Is the Department refusing to comply with my (more detailed) open records request?

I appreciate the courtesy of a prompt response, via email, to this inquiry.

Thank you.

Brian Fraley

Publisher, Dairyland Sentinel

The information you submitted was:

First name: Brian

Last name: Fraley

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email address: info@dairylandsentinel.com

Request Information:

Brian Fraley, Publisher

Dairyland Sentinel

[3215 Golf Road #129](#)

[Delafield, WI 53018](#)

January 21, 2025

Jill Underly and the Official Custodian of Records for the Department
State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
[201 West Washington, Avenue](#)
[Madison, WI 53703](#)

Dear Superintendent Underly:

Under the Wisconsin Open Records Law, §§19.31 to 19.39 I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records that relate to the panel of “nearly 100 experts from across the state” who recommended the updated achievement benchmarks for the forward exam, as per your statement of early today as reported by Corrinne Hess of Wisconsin Public Radio.

Specifically:

- 1) Who were these experts? How are they chosen? Please provide documentation, including invitations and relevant discussions regarding the geographic and ideological diversity. Please also provide any communication with anyone in your department regarding the vetting of these experts including correspondence with any groups or individuals consulted regarding the composition of this group.
- 2) When and where did they meet? Please provide agendas, minutes and any Zoom or other recording of the meetings.
- 3) Were any of the 100 experts asked to sign a non disclosure agreement or similar document that would shield the public from information regarding the discussions? Please provide any relevant emails and other documents given to the advisory group, including any Non Disclosure contracts or discussions regarding any such agreements.
- 4) Please provide a complete timeline of this consultation process and include an itemized listing of any state expenditures including staff time and equipment purchases, meeting space rental, food, travel, lodging or other accommodations.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$1. However, I would also like to request a waiver of all fees in that the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the changes in terminology and cut scores. I intend on publishing your response at DairylandSentinel.com. This information is being sought in the public interest and the data will not be used for commercial purposes.

I would request a response in writing, within the 5 days described by law, if you intend to deny this request. Also, if you expect a significant delay in fulfilling this request, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Brian Fraley

info@DairylandSentinel.com

