

# Legislative Updates

# Legislative Updates

## **State exam cut scores and new mandates on schools on agenda for first public hearing of Assembly education committee**

The Assembly Committee on Education, chaired by Rep. Joel Kitchens, held its first public hearing on February 6 at 10:00am. The hearing will cover five bills related to K-12 education, including regulating the Department of Public Instruction's ability to alter state assessment standards (cut scores), curricular mandates for cursive writing and civics instruction, school material inspections by district residents, and mandating an arbitrary percentage of school funds be spent in the classroom.

The first bill aims to align cut scores, score ranges, and corresponding qualitative descriptions for the Wisconsin Forward exam and PreACT and ACT with Writing in English, Reading, and Mathematics with the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The second bill requires the state superintendent of public instruction to incorporate cursive writing into the state model English language arts standards and require it in elementary grades. The third bill focuses on required instruction in civics in elementary and high school grades, high school graduation requirements, and private school educational program criteria.