

## **2011 WKCE State-Wide Testing- Common Questions & Answers**

### **Who must participate in this state test and what does it include?**

All public students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 will participate in the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) during the assessment window of **Oct. 26 – Nov. 27**. Exact testing dates for schools are as follows:

#### **Cumberland**

3<sup>rd</sup>: 11/1 – 11/4

4<sup>th</sup>: 11/7 – 11/10

5<sup>th</sup>: 11/1 – 11/4

#### **Richards:**

3<sup>rd</sup>: 11/1 – 11/4

4<sup>th</sup>: 11/7 – 11/10

5<sup>th</sup>: 11/1 – 11/4

**Middle School:** 11/1 – 11/3

**High School:** 11/9 – 11/10

Third, fifth, sixth, and seventh graders will be tested on Reading and Math concepts while fourth, eighth, and tenth graders are tested on Reading, Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies concepts. The test is comprised of multiple choice and constructed (written) response items.

### **Can students prepare for this test?**

This is not a test for which students can study for a night or two in advance. The best preparation has been the effective instruction and learning that has occurred each year since kindergarten.

### **Will parents receive the scores?**

Parents will receive the results through the U.S. mail. Because the constructed response portions of every test must be hand-scored, results likely will not be received until early spring.

### **How do schools use the scores?**

Staff members realize that the results of the WKCE are just one piece of the puzzle to indicate students' learning and potential. When a student scores in the "Minimal" or lowest category, it likely means the student requires remediation in that academic area. A "Minimal" score also is one of several factors considered when determining to retain a student in the same grade level for next school year. Additionally, schools use the WKCE data to watch for trends over the years to help determine school improvement goals and potential curricular changes.

### **How can parents help improve their children's performance on the WKCE?**

\* You have been helping them all along by reinforcing that school and learning are important!

\* Let your children know this is an important test and they should work hard to show all they have learned. Yet, balance that message with the point that these scores are not a part of their report cards. Do not get stressed out during these testing days!

\* During the testing days, see to it that your children get plenty of sleep the nights before testing and are eating a healthy breakfast each morning.

\* Make sure your children attend school during the testing window- Please do not schedule doctors appointments, vacations, etc. during the testing period. We do have a few days reserved for make-up tests, however students must miss valuable class time for taking make-up tests. If students are ill and should not be at school, do keep them home as you would any other time during the year.