

October 9, 2009

Wisconsin Association for Middle Level Education

I join you in celebrating October as the Month of the Young Adolescent. This period of recognition allows us to consider what it takes to develop young adolescents ready to be successful in their careers, engaged in their lifelong learning, and effective as citizens.

Early adolescence is that period between the ages of approximately 10 to 15 when young people undergo tremendous change. They are developing physically, but also as thinking, emotional, and motivated individuals. What an exciting and challenging period in their life.

I ask communities to work together to support young adolescents during this delicate period of change. Parents, neighbors, caregivers, librarians, teachers, shopkeepers, and other members of the community will influence the attitudes and values of these young people. While peers are becoming increasingly influential in their lives, young adolescents also look to adults as role models to follow. These influences shape our young citizens into the leaders and adults of tomorrow.

I urge schools and communities across Wisconsin to support the mission of the Wisconsin Association for Middle Level Education. I ask all citizens in Wisconsin to give our young people the attention and respect they need today. Please join me to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of our young adolescents.

Sincerely,



Tony Evers, PhD
State Superintendent

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