

Micro Credentials – The Future of Professional Development

More and more educators are finding value in the use of proficiency based micro-credentials to meet individual, grade level, and departmental professional learning needs. Micro-credentials assist teachers and education support professionals to develop skills and acquire knowledge to improve classroom practices that support student success.



The WEA Academy's micro-credentials have been written and reviewed by National Education Association (NEA) members from across the country who have demonstrated competence and excellence in their field.

Since the passage of Act 166 mandating Educator Effectiveness, all educator evaluation systems in Wisconsin must adopt a framework based on InTASC standards. The WEA Academy micro-credentials are aligned with InTASC as well as the Danielson, Stronge and Marzano frameworks. Educators submit evidence that they have mastered the competency. Submitted evidence is assessed by active and retired educators working for [Digital Promise](#), a highly respected, independent, non-profit firm.

Benefits to Teachers and Education Support Professionals

- Free, high-quality professional development. The WEA Academy's micro-credentials meet the ESSA definition of high quality: they are sustained, intensive, collaborative, job-embedded, data-driven and classroom focused
- Provides immediate applicable classroom practices
- Personalized based on educator interest and context maintaining educator autonomy
- On demand, accessible at educator convenience
- Provide teacher leadership opportunity
- Documented support to meet Educator Effectiveness goals
- Based on grade level or department overall data trends; teams can utilize select micro-credentials

Benefits to School Districts

- Free, high-quality professional development. The WEA Academy's micro-credentials can reduce pressure on Title IIA or tuition reimbursement funds
- Recruitment and retention tool e.g. leadership development, fulfillment of annual professional development requirements, movement on salary schedule depending on the district pay structure, a platform in line with early career educator learning styles
- Identifies competencies of educators who could serve in leadership positions
- Provides framework for high quality PLCs
- Provides evidence of impact on professional learning
- Provides laser specific topical support for the increasing number of alternatively certified educators
- Administrators can work with an educator and union representative to customize a stack for an educator on a plan of improvement