



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27, 2020

Contact: Rep. David Bowen, 608-266-7671

## **Closing the Achievement Gap in our Schools**

Wisconsin Assembly Democratic Weekly Radio Address

By Representative David Bowen (D-Milwaukee)

### [Audio File of Radio Address](#)

Hello I'm State Representative David Bowen with this week's Democratic Radio Address.

Throughout the month of February, the Legislative Black Caucus hosted many commemorative events to honor African American leaders and historical events.

But Black History Month is about so much more.

It's a time of action.

That action can be working on economic equity, advocating for fair housing practices, or demanding quality education for every child.

But the reality is, education is not equal in Wisconsin.

A study by the Annie E. Casey Foundation ranked Wisconsin as the lowest of all states in its ability to prepare African American children for educational success.

The disparity in Wisconsin's graduation rate is also the highest in the country for African American students, with Black students graduating at a rate of 67%, 25.7% lower than White students.

Failure to address racial disparities in our education system undermines the overall quality of life and vitality Wisconsin has to offer to our students.

I look forward to working with Governor Evers to pursue an agenda that includes funding for special education, sparsity aid, and funding for diverse talent retention.

All children, regardless of zip code, deserve a world class education.

Thank you.

###