

Join the ASQ  
Section 1216  
Group on  
**LinkedIn**

<http://www.linkedin.com/groupRegistration?gid=2451778>

Summer is over and it is time to embark upon a new journey. After serving in many positions on the board, since the mid-90s, I have decided to try something new. I volunteered to fill the Newsletter Editor position which Lynn Keller has resigned from after seven years of dedicated service. I want to thank Lynn for the years of service and wish her well as she takes on her second year as the Treasurer for our section. In our busy lives, it is difficult to commit to extras, so a big THANK YOU to all members who have volunteered as board members and keep our section active.

Denise Wermager  
Newsletter Editor

## Join Us For a Tour of Peerless Chain in Winona, MN September 18, 2012 @ 5:30 PM

Peerless Chain, established as a manufacturer of tire chains in 1917 eventually expanded into hardware and industrial chain manufacturing, as well as wire forms by the 1960's. By the late 1970's Peerless Chain entered the overhead lifting market.

Primarily known as a chain supplier to the local hardware stores and retail chain stores, the face of Peerless began to change with the acquisition of Weissenfels USA in March of 2004 and the acquisition of American Chain Company (ACCO) in July of 2006. The acquisition of these two companies expanded the industrial market for Peerless; specifically for Overhead Lifting and Marine products.

In December of 2010, the overhead lifting product line was bolstered once again with the acquisition of Letellier Material Handling Equipment (LMHE). Since 1974, LMHE has been manufacturing high quality overhead lifting devices to satisfy the requirements of customers in many diverse industries.

In September of 2011, Security Chain Company (SCC) became the newest member of the Peerless Industrial Group. SCC brings cutting-edge traction and cargo control products to our ever-increasing product offering.

Today, the PEERLESS INDUSTRIAL GROUP is the largest manufacturer and distributor of industrial and consumer chain and traction products in North America with a reputation for excellence in product quality and service.

Peerless Industrial Group. YOUR LINK TO QUALITY, STRENGTH AND SERVICE SINCE 1917.

### MEETING PRICE:

\$20.00 for ASQ Members and Guests  
\$10.00 for Full-Time Students with ID

RSVP: Reply to Pingg invite  
or e-mail celeste.lea@bench.com



### Future Meetings

Kwik Trip  
October 16, 2012

Garvin Heights Vineyards  
November 13, 2012

# United States Education: Is it a quality concern?

by Denise Wermager

I had a conversation recently with a friend whose family moved to Minnesota from overseas. Her first child is entering school this year and she was interested in discussing the quality of education within the US. She has done a significant amount of research and has decided that she is not comfortable with the US public school system and has chosen a private institution instead. The points that were being made in the discussion as well as my own perception of the K-12 public schools my children attend prompted me to do a little research on the general view of how US schools are doing.

My first stop was the Education Week website, <http://www.edweek.org/ew/index.html>. This is an organization that publishes weekly news on American education issues. I began reading articles on many different topics and didn't realize I had lost track of time until my husband called the office at 8:20 pm on Friday night to ask where I was. I was reviewing the detail behind the State Report Cards posted on this site. According to the Editorial Projects in Education Research Center that conducts this study, the majority of our states score in the C band (70-80). Only 6 states scored in the B band (80-90) and there was not a single school that received an A band grade.

Not wanting to rely on a single source I reviewed many more articles, reports and discussions in forums, blogs, newspapers, magazines, and studies. What I found was a consistency that the US public school system is struggling in basics such as math and reading. Other countries are quickly surpassing our scores and we will need to change and improve to stay competitive in the global economy well into the future. As I dug deeper, I was given more proof that US student proficiency ratings are showing that our students are not being properly prepared. This could contribute to the growing number of students entering college that need to take remedial courses before they can begin earning their needed credits. The added remedial courses lengthen the time they can expect to be in school which may correlate to the increase in the number of students that start college and fail to graduate.

I began to think about how uninformed I was with the state of our education system. In the news I hear about the bullying, drugs, alcohol, sex, and violence, within our public school systems but I don't hear about the issues that will affect our continued success within the global economy very often. I am not saying that these education issues aren't discussed in the news, but it seems that I hear more when the political race is on than during any other time of the President's term and I started to wonder how our government uses this data and what the resulting actions are.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org), has been conducting studies since 1997 when they launched the "Programme for International Student Assessment - PISA". This program was launched as a solution for countries who wanted more regular and reliable data on the knowledge and skills of their students and performance of their education systems. The last PISA assessment was conducted in 2009 but another will take place in 2012. In the 2009 study, the US fell statistically significantly short of the OECD average in Math and not statistically significantly different from the OECD average in Reading and Science but the data shows that we are scoring significantly lower than countries such as China, Korea, Finland, Singapore, Canada, New Zealand, Japan and Australia.

During a speech in September 2011 the White House, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education>, documented a statement made by President Barack Obama. He stated, "Now, it is an undeniable fact that countries who out-educate us today are going to out-compete us tomorrow. But today, our students are sliding against their peers around the globe. Today, our kids trail too many other countries in math, in science, in reading. And that's true, by the way, not just in inner-city schools, not just among poor kids; even among what are considered our better-off suburban schools we're lagging behind where we need to be. Today, as many as a quarter of our students aren't finishing high school. We have fallen to 16th in the proportion of young people with a college degree, even though we know that 60 percent of new jobs in the coming decade will require more than a high school diploma."

Supporter or non-supporter of President Obama, we must all agree on the importance of high-quality education to sustain our place in the global economy. The White House webpage cited above gives a list of items that the Obama Administration defines as progress in providing a high-quality education for all our children. I will let you decide on whether you agree or disagree but my intent of writing this article is to make others aware of what I feel is a serious quality concern that we need to address; an issue that may benefit from the application of the quality tools we use every day.

Comments/feedback on this article can be sent to [dlwerm@gmail.com](mailto:dlwerm@gmail.com).

I have included the state report cards for Minnesota and Wisconsin, as first appeared in *Education Week*, January 12, 2012. Reprinted with permission from Editorial Projects in Education. All states information can be accessed at <http://www.edweek.org/ew/qc/2012/16src.h31.html?intc=EW-QC12-LFTNAV>.

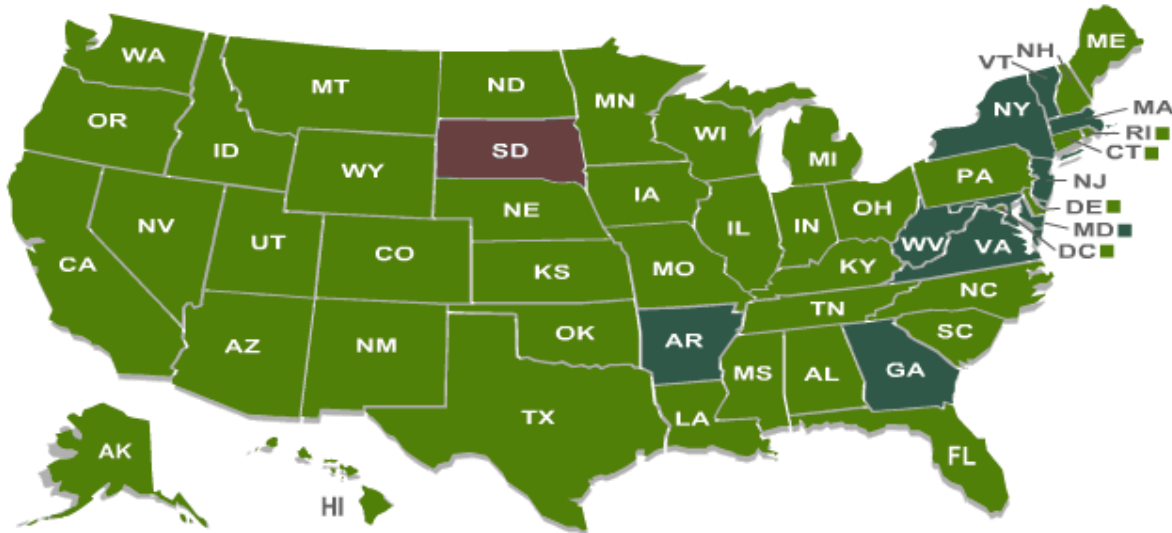
## State Report Cards state-by-state grades and data in six areas of educational policy and performance

THE GRADING SCALE ■ A to A- ■ B+ to B- ■ C+ to C- ■ D+ to D- ■ F ■ NA

OVERALL GRADE & SCORE (2012)

### Overall Grades & Scores

**U.S. Average: C (76.5)**



#### Minnesota

**Overall: C (74.6)**

**Chance for Success: B+ (86.5)**

Early foundations: A- (92.4)

School years: B (82.9)

Adult outcomes: B (86.1)

**K-12 Achievement: C (74.4)**

Status: B- (80.5)

Change: D+ (69.4)

Equity: C (72.5)

**Standards, Assessments, & Accountability: C- (71.2)**

Standards: C+ (78.6)

Assessments: C (75.0)

School accountability: D- (60.0)

**The Teaching Profession: D+ (67.5)**

Accountability for quality: C- (70.6)

Incentives & allocation: D (65.4)

Building & supporting capacity: D+ (66.7)

**School Finance: C+ (76.5)**

Equity: B (85.7)

Spending: D+ (67.3)

**Transitions & Alignment: C- (71.4)**

Early-childhood education: B- (80.0)

College readiness: D- (60.0)

Economy & workforce: C (75.0)

[Want more data? Get the State Highlights Reports >>](#)

<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>Overall: C+ (78.1)</b>
<b>Chance for Success: B- (82.0)</b>	<b>The Teaching Profession: C+ (79.1)</b>
<b>Early foundations: B+ (87.0)</b>	<b>Accountability for quality: C (76.5)</b>
<b>School years: B- (79.8)</b>	<b>Incentives &amp; allocation: B- (80.8)</b>
<b>Adult outcomes: B- (79.5)</b>	<b>Building &amp; supporting capacity: B- (80.0)</b>
<b>K-12 Achievement: C- (71.3)</b>	<b>School Finance: B- (82.3)</b>
<b>Status: C- (72.0)</b>	<b>Equity: A- (91.1)</b>
<b>Change: D+ (68.1)</b>	<b>Spending: C (73.5)</b>
<b>Equity: C (75.6)</b>	
<b>Standards, Assessments, &amp; Accountability: C (75.2)</b>	<b>Transitions &amp; Alignment: C+ (78.6)</b>
<b>Standards: F (57.1)</b>	<b>Early-childhood education: B- (80.0)</b>
<b>Assessments: B+ (88.3)</b>	<b>College readiness: D- (60.0)</b>
<b>School accountability: B- (80.0)</b>	<b>Economy &amp; workforce: A (100.0)</b>
	<a href="#">Want more data? Get the State Highlights Reports &gt;&gt;</a>

## Job Postings

3M has openings for 5 or more Product/Process Engineers in its Manufacturing Plants in Prairie du Chien, WI.

Applicants should have a formal Engineering degree from a 4 year college. Interested applicants should apply by e-mailing the Site Human Resource Manager, Shelly Gruber, or the plant manager, Tom G. Harris.



Shelly Gruber: E-mail: [sgruber@mmm.com](mailto:sgruber@mmm.com) phone: 608-326-2466-x2259

Tom Harris: E-mail: [tgharris2@mmm.com](mailto:tgharris2@mmm.com) phone: 608-326-2466 x3348

Plant website: [http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en\\_US/PrairieduChien/Plant/](http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en_US/PrairieduChien/Plant/)

Employment website: [http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en\\_US/careers/home/](http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en_US/careers/home/)



Benchmark Electronics has a significant number of career opportunities available between their Winona, MN and Rochester, MN facilities.

Employment website: <http://www.bench.com/careers/Pages/Job-Search.aspx>



Watlow has an opening for a Software Engineer in Winona, MN.

Employment website: <http://watlow.hrmdirect.com/employment/careers.php?>




HGST a Western Digital Company has a vast number of career opportunities in Rochester, MN.


Employment website: <http://www.hgst.com/company/employment/>

## Quality Training and Events


### Offered by Our Partner's




To see what quality-related courses The QC Group is offering please visit  
<http://www.theQCgroup.com/training>



To see what current meetings/events the Performance Excellence Network (formerly the Minnesota Council for Quality) is offering please visit  
<http://www.councilforquality.org>



To see what current meetings/events the ASQ Minnesota Section 1203 is offering please visit  
<http://mnasq.org/events-calendar/>



ASQ 1216 Section Members receive a 10% Discount on the below classes. Information and registration at  
[cbi.southcentral.edu/enroll](http://cbi.southcentral.edu/enroll)

COURSE NAME	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COST
Understanding ISO 9001 & Internal Auditor Skills	Tuesday & Wednesday, September 25 & 26, 2012	8a-4:30p	Faribault	\$445
Fundamentals of Quality Assurance	Wednesday & Thursday, October 24 & 25, 2012	8a-4:30p	Faribault	\$445
Failure Mode & Effects Analysis (FMEA)	Thursday, November 8, 2012	8a-4:30p	Faribault	\$235
Quality Engineer Certification (CQE) Review: <i>Self-Study &amp; Online</i>	Tuesdays, September 18 – November 20, 2012	6-8:00p	Online	\$199
Engineering Statistics (includes CQE Body of Knowledge)	Tuesdays, October 30 – November 13, 2012	6-8:00p	Online	\$149
Understanding ISO 9001 & Internal Auditor Skills	Tuesday & Wednesday, December 11 & 12, 2012	8a-4:30p	North Mankato	\$445

## Offered by ASQ or Co-Sponsored by ASQ

### **56<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Technical Conference “Statistics and Quality: Expanding the Horizon”**

Dates: October 3-6  
Where: St. Louis, MO  
Website: <http://cba.ua.edu/ftc2012/>

### **21<sup>st</sup> Annual ASQ Audit Division Conference**

Dates: October 11-12  
Where: Augusta, GA  
Website: <http://asq.org/conferences/audit/index.html>

### **39th Energy & Environmental & Energy Division Training & Education Conference**

Dates: October 14-17  
Where: Tampa, FL  
Website: [http://asq.org/ee/interaction/39th\\_eetec.htm](http://asq.org/ee/interaction/39th_eetec.htm)

### **2012 Service Quality Conference**

Dates: October 15-16  
Where: Baltimore, MD  
Website: <http://asq.org/conferences/service-quality/>

## Offered by Other Organizations

### **37<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference**

Organization: National Association for Healthcare Quality  
About: <http://www.nahq.org/about/whoweare/vispurpill.html>  
Dates: September 20-23  
Where: Tampa, FL  
Website: <http://www.nahq.org/annualconference/2012/ccindex.html>

### **Institute for Quality 2012 Annual Conference**

Organization: American Medical Group Association  
About: [http://www.amga.org/AboutAMGA/index\\_aboutAMGA.asp](http://www.amga.org/AboutAMGA/index_aboutAMGA.asp)  
Dates: October 3-5  
Where: National Harbor, MD  
Website: <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=46356&>

### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual QM Conference on Quality Assurance in Online Learning**

Organization: Quality Matters  
About: <http://www.qmprogram.org/faq>  
Dates: October 3-6  
Where: Tucson, AZ  
Website: <http://www.qmprogram.org/4th-annual-conference>

### **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific NW Software Quality Conference**

Organization: Pacific Northwest Software Quality Conference  
About: <http://www.pnsqlc.org/about-pnsqlc/general-information>  
Dates: October 8-10  
Where: Portland, OR  
Website: <http://www.eccma.org/2012eccmasummit/>

## Did you know?

Did you know that the ASQ family of companies also includes the following accreditation leaders?

- ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (<http://www.anab.org/>)
- ANAB-ACLASS (<http://www.aiclasscorp.com/>)
- RABQSA (<http://www.rabqsa.com/>)
- Forensic Quality Services (FQS) (<http://fqsforensics.org/>)  
who joined the family in March 2012

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**FREE - Monthly ASQ Exclusive Gift for Members:** <http://asq.org/member-gift/>

**NOT A MEMBER - JOIN NOW:** <http://asq.org/membership/members/your-benefits.html>

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### ***IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY TO START PLANNING!***

***We are seeking motivated individuals to join our board for the 2013-2014 year. Please contact a current board member if you are interested and remember that joining the board earns you extra Recertification Units!***

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## ASQ Section 1216 La Crosse - Winona 2012-2013 Section Board

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