

## News Release

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### Statement from State Superintendent Tony Evers on advancing positive dialogue around school finance reform

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers today thanked those who have responded positively to his “Fair Funding for Our Future” proposal to reform school finance in Wisconsin. His statement follows.

“I want to thank all the political, business, education, and community leaders for their overwhelmingly positive response to my ‘Fair Funding for Our Future’ school finance reform plan. Anyone who has run for public office knows that Wisconsinites care deeply about their schools and the funding challenges they face. As I’ve gone around the state to announce this plan, that sentiment has been reflected in the faces and voices that support this proposal. While elected officials understandably remain cautious about committing new resources in the next state budget, they also have been clear that this is a smart, bold plan on which we can build a new foundation for school funding.

“Let me reiterate that this is a serious plan that implements long overdue school funding changes to ensure all school districts receive aid. It accounts for families’ ability to pay, holds the line on property taxes, and increases transparency in a funding system few understand.

“Unfortunately, the mudslinging has already started from some detractors, who either do not understand our tax system or are intentionally misleading people. No one benefits from wild accusations of phantom tax increases. Moving the school levy tax credits, maintaining the current revenue limits, and making the investments I recommend in school aids actually hold the line on school property taxes.

“Our newly elected governor and the people of Wisconsin have called for bold ideas, and I am answering that call. I will not defend the status quo or engage in pointless political rhetoric — our constituents expect better of us.

“This is a time for serious leaders and meaningful solutions, and I am proud that our elected officials, editorial boards, and community leaders have engaged this proposal with earnestness and thoughtful commentary. It’s time to leave behind politics as usual. I look forward to working together with leaders from across the political spectrum to reform how we fund our schools.”

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**NOTE:** This statement is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2010\\_148.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2010_148.pdf).