



FRED CLARK

Serving Adams, Columbia, Marquette & Sauk Counties

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ♦ 42ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MAY 17, 2011**

**CONTACT REP. CLARK:
(608) 266-7746**

REP. CLARK INTRODUCES SAVE OUR SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

SOS PROPOSAL OFFERS SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM IN STATE BUDGET

MADISON – Today Representative Fred Clark (D-Baraboo), joined school administrators, school board members and other school funding reform allies to unveil a budget proposal that protects public education from the drastic reductions in funding and private school give-aways in Governor Walker's budget.

The "Save Our Schools" (SOS) initiative takes advantage of recent increases in state revenue projections as well as additional budget savings from the elimination of private school voucher expansion. SOS calls for \$376 million for public schools and technical colleges and provides fiscal responsibility through \$300 million in state debt payments.

"In budget hearings throughout Wisconsin, and in meetings with administrators, school board members and educators, I hear the same question over and over," said Rep. Clark. "They all want to know why the state is slashing funding to public schools while giving millions of taxpayer dollars to private, unaccountable schools in Milwaukee. We cannot afford to allow schools to fail our students, even when times are tough."

Rep. Clark's Save Our Schools proposal implements State School Superintendent Tony Evers' Fair Funding for Our Future school funding reform plan and ensures that no district will be worse off than under the proposed budget. Further, 86 percent of school districts will receive more funding under SOS compared to the Governor's budget by in part sending school districts \$40 million slated for Voucher and Independent Charter School expansions under Governor Walker's budget.

"Our public schools face challenges, but they are not 'broken'. The citizens of this state do not support the dismantling of public schools in favor of a private school system in their place," Rep. Clark said. "This proposal draws a clear line in the sand between those who support and value public education and those who believe our schools should decline while investing taxpayer money in private schools without the same standards or accountability."

####