

Holperin

Senate

the Northern Advantage

Paid for by Holperin - Senate, Sandy Kinney, Treas.

Holperin Endorses Evers Plan to Overhaul State School Funding Formula

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, July 12, 2011

For More Information: (715) 891-1412

State Senator Jim Holperin (D-Eagle River) said today that school aid formula changes proposed recently by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Evers offer the best chance for directing more state school aid to smaller, rural, northern Wisconsin school districts.

Nicknamed “Fair Funding For Our Future”, the proposed formula modifications would guarantee state aid of \$3,000 per pupil per year to every school district. In addition, the plan adds a low-income factor to the state aid formula and makes other changes that favor rural, declining enrollment and low aid districts.

“The majority of school districts in the 12th Senate District would get more state school aid than they do now under the Evers plan, and none would get less,” that’s mainly why I support the proposal,” Holperin said.

He said many northwoods school districts have complained for years about the inequity of the current school aid formula. School aid is the state’s largest program, accounting for about 40% of every tax dollar.

“Previous plans mostly just added more money to the formula but didn’t offer much substantive change in the way the money was distributed,” Holperin noted. “The Evers plan, by contrast, addresses many flaws in the current formula and would help most schools in the north even if no additional dollars are added.”

The 12th District legislator said the Evers plan was offered as an amendment to the recent state budget, but was rejected.

“I will work with rural legislators from both parties to keep attention focused on the need for school funding reform in this state,” Holperin concluded. “I view the Fair Funding For Our Future proposal as the only real hope for meaningful change, and so I will work to make sure some form of the plan gets reconsidered by the legislature yet this session.”

###