



# School District of Independence

23786 Indee Blvd., Independence, WI 54747  
(715) 985-3172

Dr. Paul Vine  
District Administrator/PK-5 Principal

Barry Schmitt  
MS/HS Principal

Wendy Stuttgen  
Director of Special Education/School Psychologist

---

## RESOLUTION OF THE INDEPENDENCE SCHOOL BOARD

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin has a long tradition of providing a high-quality public education system and investing in public education is an investment not only in our students' capacity for success beyond high school, but an investment in economic development and the future of Wisconsin;

**WHEREAS**, Governor Walker has proposed a \$150 decrease per pupil categorical aid in public school fund for 2015-16;

**WHEREAS**, this equates to an \$55,500 decrease in the Independence Public School budget for 2015-16 and a reduction in educational opportunities for students;

**WHEREAS**, since the 1993-94 school year, districts have been operating under state-imposed revenue limits that cap the amount schools can collect in state aid and local property taxes combined, and thus serve to limit school spending; and

**WHEREAS**, until recently, those revenue limits have been increased annually at the rate of inflation accommodating increases in costs to school districts to provide a stable and predictable annual increase for schools to use in budgetary planning, and Governor Walker's proposed 2015-17 state budget allows no increase in revenue limits in the biennium; and

**WHEREAS**, with no increase in per pupil revenue limits, none of the additional state dollars proposed for K-12 education general aid and (i.e. \$108 million in 2016-2017) will go for schools or students, but instead be directed to reducing property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed budget expands taxpayer subsidies to private voucher and independent charter schools, removing the 1000 student cap on vouchers, taking additional money away from state general aid to school districts and reducing state funding for public schools;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed budget provides an additional \$211.2 million to increase the school levy tax credit, this money will be paid to municipalities not school districts and does not provide resources directly to schools. Although the name of this tax credit suggests it has something to do with money for schools, its only connection to school budgets is that it is calculated based on school levies; and

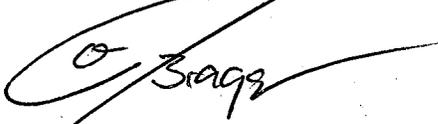
**WHEREAS**, Governor Walker and various legislators have made public comments in support of increasing funding for public schools if additional state revenue is available after April tax collections are counted;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Independence School Board calls upon Senator Kathleen Vinehout, Representative Chris Dano, to work with their legislative colleagues and Governor Walker to revise the proposed budget to restore school funding for 2015-17 to levels adequate to fund public education in Wisconsin and to reject any decrease in anticipated revenue in the first year of the biennium, while also providing for inflationary revenue increase in both years

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Independence School Board, on the 12th day of March, 2015, directed the Superintendent to prepare and to present this Resolution to Governor Walker, Senator Vinehout, Representative Danou.

Adopted this Twelfth Day of March 2015

Joe Bragger, President



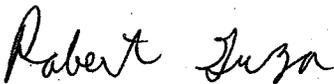
Chuck Walek, Vice President



Leah Matchey, Clerk



Bob Guza, Treasurer



Jeff Bautch, Member

