

News Release

Education Information Services ■ 125 South Webster Street ■ P.O. Box 7841 ■ Madison, WI 53707-7841 ■ (608) 266-3559

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI-NR 2013-80

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Contact: Patrick Gasper, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

Public encouraged to ask questions about budget provision

Legislation potentially restricts release of voucher school data

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers issued a statement regarding the public information and open government conflict posed by legislation the Wisconsin Assembly passed yesterday as part of the 2013-15 state budget.

“The Department of Public Instruction takes seriously its responsibility to provide information on taxpayer funded schooling to the public, including parents and the media. Setting a mandated system of preapproval by publically funded private schools for the release of their data to individuals, including prospective parents, is wrong, and would never be legislated or tolerated for public schools.

“There is no spin to casting this backroom deal as a retreat in transparency for programs costing state taxpayers almost \$400 million over the next two years.

“Every taxpayer should read the language of the whole amendment and ask the question: “Why is this needed for publically funded private schools and not public schools?”

3. PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAMS — RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Require DPI, when publicly releasing data related to, but not limited to, enrollment of, standardized test results for, applications submitted by, waiting lists for, and other information related to pupils participating in or seeking to participate in parental choice programs, to release the data all at the same time, uniformly, and completely. **Provide that DPI may selectively release portions of the information specified above only to the following: (a) the school district or an individual school; and (b) an entity requesting the information for a specific participating school or the school district, provided that the entity is authorized to obtain official data releases for that school or the school district.**

[AA 3 Item: 77 and 89]

Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Assembly Amendment 3 to ASA 1 to AB 40 memorandum, 6/19/13

(Emphasis added)

###

NOTE: This statement is available electronically at http://news.dpi.wi.gov/files/eis/pdf/dpinr2013_80.pdf.