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Fair Funding supported

SUBMITTED BY SPOONER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
 Published: Thursday, December 23, 2010 2:29 PM CST

The Spooner Area School District would see an increase in state equalization aid, and Spooner Area School District taxpayers a reduction in their school tax levy, if the governor and state Legislature adopt State Superintendent Tony Evers' school finance reform proposal in the upcoming 2011-13 budget cycle. The "Fair Funding for Our Future" plan was introduced by Evers on November 15.

Spooner Area School District's potential increased state equalization aid, if the Fair Funding plan had been in place for the 2010-11 school year, would have increased from the \$1,482,979 certified by the Department of Public Instruction on October 15 to \$4,235,280 under the plan. That change would not directly increase school spending since revenue caps would still be in effect, but it would have reduced the impact felt by district taxpayers.

Had the Fair Funding plan been in place this year, the district's 2010-11 certified tax levy of \$15,030,125 would have been reduced by \$2,752,301 to \$12,277,824 under the proposal. Even when taking into account that Spooner Area School District's current \$2,296,429 in school levy tax credits would be folded into general school aids, the district taxpayers still would have seen an overall tax reduction of \$455,872 – an increase of over 12 percent of total support compared to the current plan. Simply put, the Fair Funding plan creates a more transparent and honest school tax system for local taxpayers by redirecting the school levy tax credit into general school aids. The plan as proposed would bring relief to a district that has seen state general aid decrease an average of 15.15 percent annually the past seven years despite a decrease in revenues an average of .06 percent over that same period.

Further info:
 715/635-2171;

www.fairfundingforourfuture.org.

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