

News Release

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Statement in support of reforming school finance in the budget

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers issued the following statement in support of legislative efforts to reform school finance in the 2011-13 state budget.

“Our school finance system is broken, and everyone knows it. For far too long, school finance reform has been all talk and no action, leaving behind a graveyard of good ideas and mountains of discarded print outs and committee reports.

“But now we have an opportunity to make real, lasting change. Last fall, I introduced the *Fair Funding for Our Future* plan, because we need a school finance system that guarantees funding for every kid, accounts for poverty, is less reliant on property wealth, and provides greater transparency. It received strong, bipartisan support and praise from school leaders across the state.

“Over the last six months, I have continued to work with the governor and legislators from both parties to advance meaningful school finance reform. Today, I proudly stood with legislators willing to champion school funding reform in this budget. We cannot afford to put this off any further. Now, more than ever, we need to ensure we have a fair and equitable funding system.

“School finance is not a partisan issue, and I call on members of the Joint Finance Committee to adopt *Fair Funding for Our Future* as a bipartisan reform. Using only part of the \$636 million in new revenue identified by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, we can make school finance reform a reality. This is a time for courage and boldness, and an investment in reforming school finance will pay dividends for years to come.”

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2011_58.pdf.