



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Save Our Schools; Education for All A Smart Public Education Funding Proposal

Janesville – State Legislators were joined today by area school administrators in support of the “Save Our Schools” proposal for the 2011-2013 state budget.

Governor Walker’s current budget proposal for 2011-2013 reduces funding for public schools by \$1.68 billion, guts state funding for technical colleges by 30% while increasing taxpayer funding for private schools. The “Save Our Schools” alternative budget proposal addresses current fiscal challenges while preserving Wisconsin’s commitment to public education. “Save Our Schools” provides an additional \$376 million for public schools and technical colleges.

Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca (D-Kenosha):

“Our strong public education system is critical to vibrant economic growth for Wisconsin. Our funding proposal is a fiscally responsible alternative to Gov. Walker’s plan which takes money away from public schools to give it to private schools in Milwaukee. Our plan benefits the vast majority of the school districts in Wisconsin, while also paying our obligations and restoring money for job retraining at technical colleges. We need a state budget that makes the right choices for all Wisconsin citizens. ”

Rep. Janis Ringhand (D-Evansville):

“Maintaining an educated workforce is essential to getting Wisconsin’s economy back on track. It is shortsighted to make such drastic cuts to our education system for a quick budget fix. The Save Our Schools proposal supports schools, such as Blackhawk Technical College, that have record enrollments and provide crucial job training necessary for keeping jobs here in Wisconsin.”

Heidi J. Carvin (District Administrator - Evansville Community School District):

“All staff in the Evansville School District agreed to contribute to pensions, health insurance and limit pay increases. Despite these efforts, we still need to increase class sizes and reduce vital programs such as guidance and libraries. Save our Schools is a step in the right direction for fair and equitable public school funding. This proposal will help ensure all students have educational opportunities that will prepare them as contributing citizens. The growth and prosperity of Wisconsin depends on a vital public school system.”

Rep. Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh):

“Governor Walker’s budget dramatically shifts our state’s funding priorities away from public education at the expense of all children. At the same time, he substantially increases taxpayer funding for unproven and unaccountable private schools. This is wrong for Wisconsin. Save Our Schools greatly improves the state budget by maximizing existing revenues and making investment in public education opportunities the priority for all kids in Wisconsin.”

Rep. Sody Pope-Roberts (D-Middleton):

“Since the introduction of Governor Walker’s budget proposal, our offices have been flooded with communications regarding the negative impact this budget will have on our already financially strapped public schools. It is our belief that given different priorities Wisconsin can do a better job of providing a public education than this budget will allow.”

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