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## **Recent Education Policies Proposed for Elimination in DPI's 2019-21 Biennial Budget**

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Several significant education policy changes have been inserted into prior biennial budgets at the very end of the process and enacted into law with no real public deliberation. As part of its 2019-21 biennial budget request, DPI is requesting repeal of the statutory language governing these policy changes:

### **Efforts that Undermine Teacher Quality**

In recent years, a number of legislative proposals would undermine teacher quality, minimize preparation, and put ill-prepared teachers in front of students. Some of these proposals failed thanks to push back from parents and educators, such as a 2015 proposal that could have licensed people lacking high school degrees. However, a proposal authorizing licensure for teachers prepared by online degree mills - with no face-to-face contact with kids required - was enacted during the last state budget. *DPI's 2019-21 biennial budget proposal would eliminate this provision.*

### **School Governance Gimmicks**

Instead of partnering with schools and communities to support struggling students and improve academic performance, some have instead focused on shifting governance structures as a solution. For example, lawmakers created the Opportunity Schools and Partnerships Program (OSPP), a program that undermines local control and pursues interventions not grounded in research. While the premise of the program is flawed, the poor construction of the law has also made implementation nearly impossible. *The DPI's 2019-21 biennial budget would eliminate this program.*

### **Provisions that Erode Local Control**

Wisconsin's tradition of local control is increasingly being eroded, including recent attempts to restrict school boards from seeking referenda and taking away the ability of schools to serve their kids best. While more draconian proposals were rejected, like the attempt to force districts to use a state policy for bathroom use, lawmakers still passed several provisions to restrict referenda, including limiting when referenda can be held and penalizing districts whose referenda fail by preventing them from using their low revenue ceiling. *DPI's 2019-21 budget would repeal these provisions and put local boards and voters back in control of funding decisions for their local schools.*

### **Inequitable Funding Provisions**

As lawmakers have expanded voucher and independent charter programs, they've increased the complexity and inequity of how those programs are funded. For example, private schools in the Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP) or public schools serving students under Special Education Open Enrollment can now be reimbursed on an "actual cost" basis, without requiring any verification or auditing of those costs, inconsistent with every other state aid program. Further, while costs for students with disabilities in public schools are generally reimbursed at a rate of 25%, state law now allows private schools in the SNSP to be reimbursed at or near 100%. These provisions result in significant inequities between students with disabilities under SNSP and their counterparts in public schools. *The DPI's budget deletes these inequitable and unworkable provisions.*