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TO: Senate Committee on Finance
FROM: Brian Hanes, Superintendent - Ashwaubenon School District
DATE: March 18, 2015
SUBJECT: **Concern for Public School Funding**

First, **thank you** for the opportunity to hear public input.

Wisconsin has an incredibly positive history of investing in one of our nation's best public education systems. Our investment in education is vital to our business community throughout the state of Wisconsin.

Ashwaubenon has cut budgets over the past 10 years and the \$150 cut in per pupil aid is nearly a \$400,000 negative impact. **The potential loss of educational opportunities for our students across the state with the proposed budget is alarming!** I believe we are at a tipping point in how this is starting to affect the supply and demand of quality teachers in how this is affecting education in Wisconsin.

As a result we are forced to make decisions that will impact employment of staff, sustaining technology, increasing student fees, increasing class sizes, etc.

Our State Aid has diminished from 14 million in 2006 to 5.8 million in 2014 (see attached chart).

With regard to Senate Bill 1 (SB1), I support the bill with a strong suggestion that a SINGLE, COMMON assessment be expected. **All schools that receive public funding should use the same exact measure.** If multiple measures are used and schools are given a choice, it will be difficult to fairly compare performance. I also feel that schools that receive public funding would be required to follow the special education requirements that are currently in place for our public schools.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your time. I think we can agree that we want ALL students to achieve. Our future depends on it!

Cc: Senator Robert Cowles
Representative David Steffen