

WISCONSIN PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK

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For immediate release

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Wisconsin Communities Call for Restored Funding for Public Schools

Twenty public education advocacy teams from around the state have united through the Wisconsin Public Education Network to issue the following statement:

We represent parents and communities from around Wisconsin who believe that every child deserves equal access to an excellent public education.

Since 1993, our ability to locally control and fund our schools has been restricted by revenue limits. During the last decade, funding has stagnated and revenue limits have actually been frozen for the past two years. Funding for students with disabilities has been capped for eight years and Wisconsin schools are still reeling from the largest funding cuts in history, a cumulative decrease of \$2.6 billion since 2011 according to the State of Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

A revenue limit increase of at least \$300 per pupil per year, with sufficient aid support from the state, would be a step of good faith toward restoring that lost funding and reinvesting our tax dollars where they belong: in the success of the 850,000-plus children attending Wisconsin's excellent public schools.

Wisconsin children have paid the price for tax cuts and other state spending long enough. Restoring funding to the public schools that are the heart of our communities should be the first priority in the 2017-2019 budget, and that restoration begins with an increase to the revenue limit of at least \$300/student.

Signed,

Advocates for Education of Whitefish Bay
Citizen Advocates for Public Education (CAPE), Lake Mills
Citizen Advocates for Public Education (CAPE-MCPASD), Middleton-Cross Plains
Citizens for Educational Excellence - Menomonee Falls
Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education
Families United for Spooner Excellence
Green Bay Advocates 4 Public Education
GRUMPS (GRandparents for Madison Public Schools)
No Vouchers Coalition
Parents for Public Schools – Milwaukee

Project 13 (Eau Claire)
Saint Croix Valley Friends of Public Education
School Funding Reform for Wisconsin
Stop Special Needs Vouchers
Support Oshkosh Students (S.O.S.)
Support Our Schools (SOS) - SW Wisconsin
Support Our Schools - SOS-Wauwatosa
Support Sun Prairie Schools
Watertown CAPS: Community Advocates 4 Public Schools
YES for Oak Creek Schools

Groups or organizations who wish to sign on to this statement are invited to contact hdb@WisconsinNetwork.org.

Wisconsin Public Education Network is a coalition of individuals, organizations, school districts, and grassroots advocacy teams working to ensure that every child in Wisconsin has equal opportunity and equal access to an excellent public education. Those who wish to connect with the Network and be part of the growing movement to support local schools are invited to visit

<http://WisconsinNetwork.org>. Wisconsin Public Education Network is a project of the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools, a 501(c)(4) non-profit advocacy organization.

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