



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **State Assembly Ignores Special Session on Education**

MADISON – Today, the Wisconsin State Assembly met to take up many pieces of legislation important to Republican politicians. Unfortunately, Speaker Robin Vos ignored Governor Tony Evers’ call for a Special Session of the Legislature to address investments in education. Governor Evers proposed to renew the state’s commitment to two-thirds funding for our public schools; expand access to mental health services; ensure that students with disabilities are receiving the services and support they need to be successful; invest in rural schools through increased sparsity aid; and begin to address the teacher shortage by allowing districts to rehire retired teachers within 30 days rather than 75.

**“Governor Evers firmly believes that what’s best for our kids is what’s best for our state which is why he proposed that we prioritize investments in Wisconsin’s public schools,”** said Representative Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton). **“This investment proposed by the governor is critical to ensure that our students have access to high-quality public education and that our schools can recruit and retain the best and brightest educators.”**

The governor’s bill would provide resources statewide and is estimated to achieve reimbursement of 66.7 percent of school district partial revenues in the fiscal year 2021, achieving two-thirds funding for the first time in over a decade. The governor’s proposal would also provide \$130 million in property tax relief through equalization aid. This is due to a reduction in the amount of property taxes that school districts can levy.

**“By increasing state support we are living up to our responsibilities to our schools and relieving costs to property taxpayers at the same time. In the budget, Republicans cut \$509 million from governor’s special education proposal, leaving it up to property taxpayers to make up the difference,”** Hesselbein noted.

The governor’s proposal would provide \$79.1 million to increase the reimbursement rate for school districts’ special education costs. Assembly Republicans recklessly ignored the governor’s call to take up the proposal.

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