



"Supporting, Promoting and Advancing Public Education"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement on Joint Finance Committee K-12 Package John H. Ashley, WASB Executive Director

I want to recognize the Joint Finance Committee for voting to approve \$500 million in increased investments in public schools. The proposal addressed top priorities of the WASB including the \$200/\$204 per pupil increase in spendable resources, the first increase in special education categorical aid in more than a decade and increases for student mental health services. We also want to recognize the committee for helping historically low-spending districts by including an adjustment to the low-revenue ceiling. These items were important priorities on the WASB legislative agenda.

Although \$500 million is a significant investment, it is significantly less than what Gov. Tony Evers proposed (\$1.4 billion) as well as less than what the Legislature approved in Gov. Scott Walker's last budget (\$635 million).

We are hopeful the Legislature and Gov. Evers will continue to have discussions on the education budget. We look forward to working with all parties to meet the needs of all Wisconsin students.

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The WASB is a membership organization representing all 421 school boards and 12 cooperative educational service agency (CESA) boards of control in Wisconsin.