



JESSIE RODRIGUEZ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 21ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
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Rep. Rodriguez Responds to School District of South Milwaukee

MADISON – Yesterday, the Superintendent of the School District of South Milwaukee, Dr. Jeffrey Weiss, used inaccurate rhetoric about the Joint Finance Committee’s Department of Public Instruction (DPI) motion that he had not even had a chance to read yet.

It should be noted that the School District of South Milwaukee will receive **\$9,072,803** in federal funding through three separate pieces of federal legislation. This amounts to **\$3,230** per pupil.

Rep. Rodriguez released the following statement:

“It was my pleasure to sit down and meet with Dr. Weiss and his team in South Milwaukee earlier this week to discuss state funding of public schools. My meeting with Dr. Weiss was professional and courteous. It is unfortunate that he felt the need to, just two days after our meeting, spread misinformation about the level of funding for DPI.

“In the Legislature, we have to make tough decisions every day. The level of funding for public education is one of those decisions. I certainly understand that there will be some disagreement as to how much and how to fund public schools for the biennium. I am open to having a discussion about those things with school administrators, in my district – that is my job. However, that will be difficult going forward since Dr. Weiss feels the need to spread lies about the committee ‘defunding’ public schools. This is false and he knows it.

“Our budget allocates an additional nearly \$500 million for public education over the biennium. It increases funding for special education, mental health, high cost transportation, reading programs, and others. This is in addition to the millions of dollars they will receive in federal funding from the ESSER funds mentioned above. I would also remind Dr. Weiss that our plan moves \$350 million into the Budget Stabilization Fund which can be used in the future so that the federal one-time federal funds do not create a budget hole.”

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