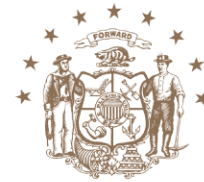




SONDY POPE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
80TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



For Immediate Release
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GOP PAYS PRIVATE SCHOOL TUITION WITH YOUR TAX DOLLARS

Newly-released memo highlights cuts to public schools, siphoning of funds to private voucher schools

MADISON – This week, the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau released a memo outlining funding levels at Wisconsin’s private voucher schools over the 2010-11 and 2015-16 aid years. During Governor Walker’s time in office, public schools have seen historic cuts, with per pupil aid dipping below the national average for the first time in history. While our public schools and students suffered under extreme funding cuts, since 2010, private voucher schools have seen a significant increase in taxpayer funding. Representative Sondy Pope, ranking Democratic member on the Assembly Committee on Education, released the following statement:

“Our public schools and students have been struggling to maintain high-quality education under massive budget cuts. They’ve cut resources, staff, educational offerings and more to make way for Republicans’ irresponsible budgeting. All-the-while, private school students have been sitting pretty, having their tuition covered by massive taxpayer subsidies.”

In order to make up for state funding reductions, since 2011 Wisconsin communities have passed 667 referenda to increase local taxpayer funding of public schools.

“This information shows yet again how Republican legislators are choosing special interest groups over their constituents. With the voucher lobbying heavily padding their campaigns, these legislators have chosen to ignore and further damage our public schools – all for more money in their own pockets.”

The Legislative Fiscal Bureau memo indicated that, from 2010-11 to 2015-16, funding to voucher schools increased by \$911 per student. Conversely, public school students experienced a funding cut of \$210 per pupil.

“With over 70 percent of our students attending public schools, it seems only logical that they should be our funding priority. It is our constitutional duty to provide fair, equal public schools. Siphoning funding from our public schools, and giving in excess to private schools, completely ignores this duty.”

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