

WISCONSIN PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK RK

For immediate release.

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Lawmakers must meet the needs of Wisconsin students in 2021-2022 school year

Governor Evers' [order today calling for a special session on education funding](#) is a much-welcome intervention after the passage of a budget that so woefully underserves Wisconsin's children.

The state legislature has a moment now, to put an end to playing politics with public schools and do the right thing by our children and meet the needs of public schools after a year of unprecedented challenges.

We have the moment: the legislature can take up these when they meet on Tuesday and use unallocated surplus funds to provide for basic school needs. They can take up a special session on education and restore much needed aid to the education budget in time for districts to plan responsibly to meet students' needs this fall.

We have the money: When the historic level of funding available, we can close the gaps created by years of inadequate and inequitable funding. Failure to do so is unethical, irresponsible, and fiscally reckless.

We have a way: investing in special education, and increasing per public aid across the state would go a long way to remedy the problem created by an inadequate budget that delivered funding in name only. The Governor's proposal would ensure funds get into every classroom in the state. It would also resolve the absurd dilemma of attempting to force districts to use federal COVID-relief funds as a substitute for general aid.

Where is the will? The Governor has provided a way to do the right thing for Wisconsin children. We demand lawmakers have the will.

We call on our state representatives to take up LRB-4297 in this special session on education and invest over \$500 million through the \$240 per-pupil aid allocation and \$200 million increase to special education aids proposed by the governor and desperately needed by districts statewide.

We call on all who care about Wisconsin's children to demand better from our state representatives.

Our kids cannot afford to be left behind by lawmakers so willing to sell them short.

Do the right thing.

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