



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Assembly Republican Leaders Promote Education Budget Package in Green Bay Area

Area superintendents joined legislators in support of the school funding proposal

Madison...Assembly Republican leaders illustrated the positive impact of their education budget proposal during a press conference at the Howard-Suamico School District Office in Green Bay. Area superintendents voiced their support for the plan that addresses the funding inequities in area districts. Every school district in Wisconsin will get more state aid under the Assembly Republican plan, which also provides additional assistance to frugal, low-spending districts, many of which are in the Green Bay area.

“The way we fund schools largely hasn’t changed since 1993 when frugal districts were locked into low levy limits. Since then, these limits have created an uneven playing field with low-spending school districts struggling to compete with high-spenders to hire quality teachers,” said Rep. John Nygren (R-Marinette), Assembly chair of the Joint Committee on Finance and co-author of the proposal. “The Assembly Republican plan makes education funding more sustainable, equitable and effective, all while decreasing property taxes.”

The Assembly Republican education budget proposal helps Wisconsin rural schools by fully funding sparsity aid and high-cost transportation aid. It also makes reforms to free up resources to be redirected to the classroom.

“Every child counts in Wisconsin and that means every child must have an equal opportunity to succeed,” said Rep. Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma), co-author of the education plan and Joint Finance Committee member.

The Assembly GOP plan puts over \$100 million more in the school funding formula and provides a significant increase in per pupil funding with \$150 per pupil in the first budget year and \$200 per pupil in the second year. It also addresses funding inequities among frugal, low-spending districts.

“There is an inequity in the school funding system that makes it hard for us to compete,” said Damian LaCroix, Superintendent of Howard-Suamico School District and Wisconsin’s 2017 Superintendent of the Year. “The proposal offered by Assembly Republicans is a win-win for our district and a positive development in closing the funding gap between districts.”

Also speaking at the press conference in support of the budget proposal were the superintendent of the Peshtigo School District and the finance director of the Marinette School District.

Assembly Republican leaders look forward to working with the governor and their senate counterparts on a sustainable education plan that provides equitable funding for K-12 students in Wisconsin.

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