



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2017

For more information contact:

Rep. John Nygren (608) 266-2343

Rep. Mary Felzkowski (608) 266-7694

Rep. Kathy Bernier (608) 266-9172

Rep. Romaine Quinn (608) 266-2519

## Assembly Republican Leaders Promote Education Budget Package in Eau Claire Area

**Madison**...Assembly Republican leaders illustrated the positive impact of their education budget proposal during a press conference at the Lake Hallie Village Hall. Area legislators, Rep. Kathy Bernier (R-Lake Hallie) and Rep. Romaine Quinn (R-Rice Lake) voiced their support for the plan that addresses funding inequities in local 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 northwest Wisconsin.

“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.

“Our plan will have a direct impact on Wisconsin students because more funding will be going into the classroom,” said Rep. Kathy Bernier (R-Lake Hallie). “Children in our state deserve an equal playing field. Students’ educational opportunities should be comparable regardless of where they live, and this plan addresses current inequities.”

“There are no losers under this plan,” added Rep. Romaine Quinn (R-Rice Lake). “Every single school district in the state will be guaranteed more state aid than they receive today, all while ensuring property taxes drop lower than current rates *and* lower than they were in 2010.”

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.