



John Nygren

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Program to Attract Teachers to Rural Wisconsin off to Fast Start

Madison—A new state program to encourage new teachers to work in rural Wisconsin is taking off. The Rural School Teacher Talent Pilot Program, which was added to the last state budget by Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette), works with colleges to place student-teachers in paid positions in rural schools across the state. The program is based off the work in CESA 8 and now nearly every CESA in the state has joined. In the fall about 700 students are signed up to teach in rural schools.

“This program is an innovative way to address the growing teacher shortage in our rural schools,” said Rep. Nygren. “We’re giving students the opportunity to work in great communities where they will hopefully want to stay.”

The state provided \$500,000 annually to provide stipends for student-teachers and to help cover program costs. UW-Madison has also agreed to research and monitor the program to determine how the Legislature can build upon the pilot program.

“With so many students interested in these positions, it shows how badly the program was needed and how impactful it will be for our rural schools,” added Rep. Nygren.

In addition to the Rural School Teacher Talent Pilot Program, this session the Legislature, working with the Department of Public Instruction, streamlined the teacher licensure process to make it less bureaucratic and more responsive to individual school district needs. Lawmakers also committed an additional \$1 million of state resources to help train more teachers as well as authorized the Department of Workforce Development to utilize Fast Forward funds for teacher training. These initiatives are in addition to the historic \$634 million investment in public schools and historic increase in the low-revenue adjustment for frugal, low-spending school districts.

“Wisconsin is not unique in the challenges it faces in addressing the teacher shortage that states across the country are facing. Through our innovative approaches and hard work, however, we are a leader in the work to ensure top-notch educators for our children,” continued Rep. Nygren. “I look forward to building on our work from this session and ensuring top-notch educators for our children.”

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