



School Administrators Alliance

Representing the Interests of Wisconsin School Children

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Statement from the School Administrators Alliance on the Joint Finance Committee K-12 Education Budget

MADISON – John Forester, executive director of the School Administrators Alliance (SAA), released the following statement on the K-12 education budget adopted yesterday by the Joint Finance Committee (JFC):

“Budgets are about choices. They are about priorities. For the School Administrators Alliance, and the more than 4,500 public school administrators we represent throughout Wisconsin, our priority has always been to improve the educational experience for the public school children we serve. For that reason, we are very pleased that the Joint Finance Committee addressed the SAA’s top budget priorities in its state budget action yesterday.

“We thank the committee members for recognizing that every Wisconsin school district needs at least a \$200 per-pupil revenue increase in each year of the biennium to support high-quality educational opportunities for the children they serve.

“We thank the committee members for the first increase in special education categorical aid funding in a decade. While education advocates and lawmakers alike recognize that this important issue will require further attention in the future, SAA members see this committee action as a positive step forward for children.

“We thank the committee members for once again recognizing the enduring challenges faced by low-revenue districts—and for making an important adjustment in the low revenue ceiling.

“We thank the committee members for recognizing the plight of our students with mental health challenges and for supporting educators in their efforts to meet the needs of these students. Rising student mental health needs will require further attention in future state budgets.

“As with previous state budgets, the K-12 education budget adopted by the JFC yesterday is not without some disappointment. We are concerned about the lack of action on funding increases for English learners. Clearly, Wisconsin has a lot of work yet to do in supporting special education, English learners and student mental health. Nonetheless, this budget action is an important step forward in addressing the significant fiscal challenges facing Wisconsin school districts.

“We look forward to working with Governor Evers and legislative leaders to strengthen the educational opportunities afforded to all Wisconsin school children—no matter their zip code or their educational needs.”

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About the School Administrators Alliance

The SAA is an alliance of the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA), Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials (WASBO), Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators (WASDA), Wisconsin Association of School Personnel Administrators (WASPA) and Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services (WCASS). It advocates on behalf of school leaders in their efforts to strengthen Wisconsin’s national leadership in education to ensure that the state’s children receive the highest-quality education possible.