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STATE REPRESENTATIVE ♦ 76th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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## **Rep. Taylor Applauds Gov. Evers' Call for a Special Session on Education**

*The legislature must act on needed funding increases for public schools*

MADISON – This morning, Representative Chris Taylor (D-Madison) joined Governor Tony Evers as he signed Executive Order #69, calling for a special session of the legislature to use some of our projected revenue surplus to increase public education funding. The proposal would build on the increases in the biennial budget Governor Evers signed in July, 2019 and bring us closer to the bold vision he laid out in his 2019-21 executive budget proposal, which was substantially reduced by legislative Republicans.

The proposed bill would also renew the state's commitment to two-thirds funding of public schools, expand access to mental health services in schools, increase aid for special education, and make targeted investments in rural schools, urban schools, and tribal language revitalization efforts.

In response, Representative Chris Taylor (D-Madison) released the following statement:

“Governor Evers has said from the beginning that what's best for our kids is what's best for our state, and he has governed by that value since he was elected,” said Rep. Taylor. “These critical investments will ensure that all of our students from urban, rural, and suburban areas have access to a high-quality public education. Under Governor Walker, Republicans made major cuts to our public schools, and according to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, even with the investments in the most recent budget, we still won't reach 2011 funding levels when you adjust for inflation. And that's exactly why the Governor is calling us to act on this issue.

“Public schools across our state are hurting. When the state doesn't adequately fund special education, our schools have to use up their general fund resources in order to meet the needs of their students, but it doesn't have to be this way. Finally, we have a Governor that is committing to making our invests in our 860,000 public school children and their futures, and I sincerely hope my Republican colleagues will act on these proposals, many of which are from the bipartisan Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding.”

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