

# WISCONSIN PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK

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## **Statement from Wisconsin Public Education Network on Governor Evers' Special Session on Education**

*Wisconsin Public Education Network Executive Director Heather DuBois Bourenane issued the following statement today in response to Governor Tony Evers' Executive Order declaring a special session on public education.*

Our Constitution makes a promise to our children and it's our lawmakers' job to keep that promise. Last year, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle promised that the state would restore its commitment to 2/3 funding of our public schools - a promise the 2019-2021 budget didn't keep. Today, the Governor provided a win/win opportunity to do the right thing.

Our public schools are struggling to meet basic needs on state funding that remains below 2011 levels when adjusted for inflation, and significantly below levels prior to that.

The Governor's Special Session proposal provides welcome, immediate, and necessary relief that would impact every student in the state. It's a common-sense proposal that invests dollars we can afford to spend in the places we can't afford not to – special education, mental health, and meeting the growing needs of rural schools.

We applaud this proposal and ask *all* legislators to put the politics aside and take advantage of this opportunity to come together in bipartisan agreement on a plan that meets the needs of our kids and their classrooms while reducing property taxes. What smarter investment could we make?

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