



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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SENATORS INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO GET OUR KIDS BACK IN THE CLASSROOM

MADISON—Today, Senator Eric Wimberger (R-Green Bay), along with Senators Duey Stroebel (R-Saukville), Kathy Bernier (R-Lake Hallie), Andre Jacque (R-De Pere), and Van Wanggaard (R-Racine), introduced Senate Bill 6, designed to ensure that children will be let back into their classrooms as soon as possible. This comes in response to parents across the state expressing their concern about their children’s progress in virtual formats, along with those of families who do not have the luxury of working from home.

The bill contains two parts:

- Mirroring language removed from AB1, and requiring a supermajority vote of a school board every 14 days to close school buildings to in-person instruction;
- Requiring every school district to offer a full-time, 5 day-a-week instruction option within 15 days of the state’s completion of phase 1b of COVID vaccination, which includes teachers.

“Our kids need to be back in classrooms as soon as possible”, said Wimberger. “We hear stories every day from parents who can see their kids falling behind in real time. They are missing out on incredibly valuable instruction time and social interaction. Schools are at very low risk for spread of the virus, and we know that other states and countries have been able to return their students to the classroom safely. It is past time for us to do the same.”

“The science is clear: there is no substitute for in-person learning,” said Senator Kathy Bernier (R-Lake Hallie). “The decision to rob children of their educational success must be done with complete public transparency and overwhelming public will. Furthermore, once our educators are vaccinated, no local tyrant should create any hindrance to our children returning to schools.”

The bill is expected to receive a public hearing on this coming Thursday, January 21st, in the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families.