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State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Superintendent Burmaster statement on budget stalemate

DPI may be forced to use 2006-07 state aid numbers for 2007-08 school year

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster issued the following statement regarding the lack of a state budget and its effect on public schools throughout Wisconsin.

“The 2007-09 state budget is now almost two months late, and Wisconsin students, families, and schools will not be able to wait much longer for the Legislature to do their job. With the 2007-08 school year beginning next week, our schools and communities need to know how much state support will be coming to their local schools.

By law, the Department of Public Instruction must notify school districts and their taxpayers by October 15th of the amount of state general equalization aid they will receive for 2007-08. In order to provide an accurate general school aid calculation, DPI needs adequate time to process the information.

If there is no budget agreement by Friday, September 28th, the DPI may be forced to use last year’s budgeted figures, which will result in no statewide increase in general equalization aid for 2007-08. This means tens of millions of dollars less in state aid will be going to schools, resulting in much higher school property taxes this fall. This is a direct burden placed on property taxpayers in Wisconsin as a result of legislative inaction.

I renew my call to the Legislature to do their job and pass a state budget that truly provides the resources needed for the quality education that our students, parents, educators, and communities expect and deserve. The time is now for the Legislature to deliver a state budget that moves us to a higher ground, bringing people together around our shared value and responsibility to put our children and their education first. Wisconsin will be stronger for it.”

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