

**Judith B. Robson**  
Wisconsin State Senator

September 28, 2007

Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster  
Department of Public Instruction  
125 S. Webster Street  
Madison, WI 53707-7841

Dear Superintendent Burmaster,

As you are aware, deliberations and negotiations to resolve the differences between the Senate and Assembly versions of the state biennial budget are ongoing.

I'm aware that you have indicated that in order to meet the October 15th statutory deadline to set equalization aid for public schools, you needed to have the level of state support resolved by September 28th.

Although significant progress has been made in the last week, an entire budget agreement has not yet been finalized. However, given that the same level equalization aid has been included in the Governor's budget, the State Senate budget and most recently in Assembly Bill 506, I'm writing to encourage you to certify that level of state support rather than base your calculations on equalization aid from the prior year.

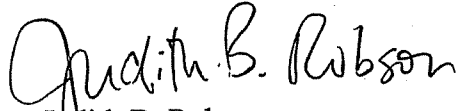
Wisconsin state statute 121.15(4) (b) provides that you are required to certify an aid amount by October 15th based upon the "the most accurate data available" but makes no reference to a September 28th deadline. However, you have indicated that your staff needs time to compile this information before certifying the number for school districts.

I believe the funding levels called for in the Governor's budget, the Senate budget, and provided for in Assembly Bill 506 satisfy statutory requirements consistent with "the most accurate data available."

Therefore, I'm asking that you and your staff begin the process of certifying those numbers on that basis.

I'm committed to working with the Assembly Speaker with the goal of completing the state budget in its entirety by October 15<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to working with you on this manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith B. Robson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Judith B. Robson  
Senate Majority Leader