

# Gov. Walker: Welcomes Wisconsin students back-to-school

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**Gov. Walker: Welcomes Wisconsin students back-to-school**

**WAUKESHA** - Governor Scott Walker joined parents and teachers at La Casa de Esperanza Charter School in Waukesha to welcome back students and celebrate the first day of school. During the visit, Dr. Brad Piazza of La Casa de Esperanza's Board of Directors presented Governor Walker with the Legacy Award for his leadership on parental choice in education. "Providing a quality K-12 education that prepares students for college, career, and life is my top priority," said Governor Walker. "We've made historic investments in our K-12 public schools and charter and choice schools because we want to ensure every student in Wisconsin receives access to a quality education regardless of their ZIP Code. Today's students are Wisconsin's future leaders, and we put more resources into the classroom to help them succeed. Tonette and I welcome students across Wisconsin back to school!"

### **Governor Walker's Historic Investments in K-12 Education**

- We are investing more actual dollars into K-12 education than ever before in state history.
- Governor Walker provided a \$636 million increase for K-12 education, the largest increase in a decade. For public schools, this amounts to \$200 more for every student in every school in 2018, and another \$204 increase for every student in every school on top of that in 2019.
- The budget provides more than \$9 million in grants to schools to improve classroom technology.
- Governor Walker also provided significant increases for rural school aids to help rural schools address unique challenges like transportation and enrollment.
- This budget provides more than \$6 million to address student mental health needs.
- Governor Walker championed a \$100 million School Safety Plan to help create safer learning environments.

Wisconsin students ranked in the top 10 in the nation for states where all graduates are required to take the ACT and in high school graduation rates, according to ACT Inc. and *Governing Magazine*.

"Across the state, our students are doing well," Governor Walker continued. "The graduation rate among Wisconsin students is among the highest in the country. Our students also have some of the best ACT scores in America for states where every child is expected to take the test. And, more than 90 percent of the school districts in the state meet or exceed expectations according to the report cards. But, we aren't done yet. We know that ensuring our students' success - both in and outside the classroom - is critical to the state's continued economic success." The La Casa de Esperanza Charter School was established in 2015 and is Waukesha County's first independent charter school.