

Sen. Schachtner: Weekly Democratic radio address: Back to school week

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MADISON, WI – Senator Patty Schachtner (D-Somerset) offered the weekly Democratic radio address today.

The audio file of this week's address can be found here:

<http://media2.legis.wisconsin.gov/multimedia/Sen16/schachtnerradio083018.mp3>

A written transcript of the address is below:

"Hi, I'm State Senator Patty Schachtner with this week's Democratic Radio Address.

"Students, parents, and teachers are gearing up for another school year.

"Schools are the heart of the community for cities and towns across Wisconsin. They are a place of learning, collaboration, and growth for our children and their families.

"As a parent and former school board member, I want every child to have the opportunity to succeed.

"Whether a child is interested in the agriculture or academia, white-collar work or blue-collar careers, schools should help them grow along the way.

"Despite the importance of education, I am concerned we are not doing enough to

prepare our children for today's competitive economy.

"Wisconsin's K-12 schools are still recovering from historic cuts to education made in 2011, when \$792 million in direct state aid was eliminated.

"Statewide, the average years of teaching experience declined since 2011.

"While state lawmakers increased K-12 spending this year, many communities fear the overdue increases are insufficient to meet next year's needs.

"In order to move Wisconsin forward, we need to prioritize K-12 education. That means investing in our schools and teachers.

"Thank you."