

# Underly: Statement on Joint Finance Committee Jeopardizing Federal COVID Relief

Posted on Friday, May 28, 2021

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**Underly Statement on Joint Finance Committee Jeopardizing Federal COVID Relief**  
5/28/2021

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We must not rush through an education budget that attempts to replace the state's obligation to public school funding with federal one-time COVID-relief dollars intended to help children recover from the pandemic.

The federal dollars were intended to provide access to mental health, more resources for extended learning and after-school programming, and in general academic recovery from this unprecedented crisis.

In fact, the US Dept of Education has reiterated today that we legally cannot backfill our own obligations to maintain proper local school funding with one-time funds.

Our entire system of funding local schools is in jeopardy, and we can't play politics at this critical juncture. Let's listen to local parents, local kids, local school boards and local communities, support Governor Evers' recommended investments, and restore our local schools to greatness.

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