

Sen. Wimberger: Statement on Oconto Falls School District lawsuit, forthcoming audit

Posted on Wednesday, Mar 11, 2026

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MADISON – Senator Eric Wimberger (R-Gillett) released the following statement after a lawsuit was filed in federal court today, alleging that three students were sexually groomed and abused by teachers and coaches employed by the Oconto Falls School District:

“All sexual abuse allegations deserve serious investigation by our justice system. Students in our community should feel safe when they walk the halls of our schools – and especially safe from predators who disguise themselves as someone their victims know and trust.

This lawsuit again highlights the need for the results of our statewide audit of how the Department of Public Instruction handles grooming and sexual misconduct allegations. I look forward to the audit report’s release in the coming weeks to provide transparency regarding Wisconsin’s education leaders’ highest responsibility: ensuring our children are safe at school.”

Last November, as co-chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, Senator Wimberger led the committee in approving an audit to examine the Department of Public Instruction’s policies for tracking teachers accused of grooming and sexual misconduct. This audit came after a Capital Times investigation into the process was published last fall.