



For Immediate Release:

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Statement on School Funding Plan in 2017-19 Biennial Budget

Neillsville, WI (June 8, 2017) — The Assembly Republicans and Governor Walker have released plans that call for additional support for our PK-12 public school systems in the next biennial budget. Members of the Wisconsin Association of Equity in Funding (WAEF) applaud the change in direction from past budget decisions that included significant funding cuts and minimal increases (far below the cost of inflation) for PK-12 public schools.

WAEF members believe our lawmakers have heard the voice of the citizens of the state and have agreed that PK-12 public schools need additional funding support from Madison. We strongly endorse the Governor's proposal to increase per student categorical funding of \$200 per student in the first year and an additional increase of \$204 in the second year. We encourage Governor Walker to continue to advocate for this increase and secure these funds in the final budget.

WAEF has reviewed the Assembly Republicans proposed PK-12 education funding plan, and support the effort to create greater equity by allowing low spending districts the authority to increase their revenue limit to \$9,800 per student. While the increased low spending revenue cap authority is a great move to help school districts, we are concerned that this increased revenue is a shift to property owners and in many property poor school districts this would be a significant burden through large increases in the mill rates.

WAEF proposes for consideration that the Governor and legislators consider supporting a plan that would achieve the \$200 and \$204 increases as well as the Assembly Republican's plan to increase the low spending revenue cap floor to \$9,800 per student. Both plans could be accomplished without increasing property taxes. We support both the spending goals of the Governor's proposed budget and the low spending revenue cap floor recently proposed by the Assembly Republicans.

The Wisconsin Association for Equity in Funding (WAEF) is a group of Wisconsin school districts that seeks financial equity in the state system of school financing. The members include urban, suburban and rural school. The two issues that brought this group together have been the wide differences in the amount school districts have been able to invest in the education of their children and the even wider differences in the property tax burden to pay for that investment.

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