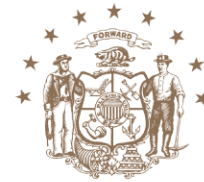




SONDY POPE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
80TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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REP POPE: URGES JFC TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER GOVERNOR'S EDUCATION BUDGET

MADISON, Wis. – Later this week, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) will hold an executive session to consider the budget of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The DPI section of the governor's budget request contains several items that are crucial for success in the eyes of educators and advocates. These include restoring the commitment to two-thirds state funding, increasing the special education reimbursement rate to at least 60%, and increasing district per-pupil revenue limit caps. Rep. Sondy Pope (D-Mt. Horeb) ranking member of the Committee on Education, reiterated the need for these investments:

"There is nothing 'wacky' or 'crazy' about funding public education the way it should have been funded over the last eight years. As a lifelong educator, Governor Evers understands that successfully educating our kids requires the right tools and his budget gives school districts those tools," said Rep. Pope. **"It is my hope that Republicans can put politics aside to do what's best for Wisconsin students and thoughtfully consider these proposals, which have overwhelming support across the state."**

Many of the proposals in the governor's budget are mirrored by recommendations in the Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding's Report which was authored solely by the Republican chairs. Although many of the governor's budget provisions appear in the report, the major funding pieces have not been authored as legislation or budget motions by Republicans.

"You only get a blue ribbon if you actually get results. You can have as many commissions and task forces as you want, but without follow through, they are just cheap stunts designed to give political cover for stagnant inaction. If JFC Republicans won't work with the Governor, I hope they'll at least consider the same policy recommendations that came from their own members who served on the commission. Failure to do so communicates a willful disregard of public opinion, commission members' time, and taxpayer money."

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