



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Weekly Radio Address: Back to School

Madison... Rep. Rob Swearingen (R-Rhineland) talks about the impact of school programs vetoed by Governor Evers.

Hi, I'm Representative Rob Swearingen.

Schools across the state are now back in session for another school year. As a parent, I'm proud of the support we have provided for education. We're investing more in our schools than ever before. But when it comes to school spending, it's not just about how much you spend, but how you spend it. That's why I was really disappointed that Governor Evers cut some of the pro-education measures that the Republican controlled legislature included in the budget,

For example, our program that ensured all kids have access to the electronics they need for school such as tablets and Chromebooks. Today's classes often require access to curriculum online, and not all kids have that. As of July, students in 352 districts across the state, plus three charter schools, benefitted from the program. In vetoing this worthy program, Governor Evers took money off the table for kids across the state, saying it would be better spent in urban districts like Madison and Milwaukee.

Governor Evers also issued a harsh veto of funds to help the new Lakeland STAR Academy, which was launched to help students of all developmental levels, and primarily those on the autism spectrum. This program helps them thrive, not only in school, but also in life, by offering skills training so they can get a good job, and live independently.

Our grant funding required matching funds from private donors, but Governor Evers vetoed it anyway, because "state funding decisions should not pick winners and losers". I've seen first-hand how the STAR Academy helps kids with all levels of ability be better prepared for the future. I don't see how this is anything but a win-win.

We will continue to fight to make sure all kids, even those to the north, have the tools they need to get the great education we expect here in Wisconsin.

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/eupdates/asm63/SwearingenRadio.mp3>

