



ROB SWEARINGEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 34th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Office: (608) 266-7141
Toll Free: (888) 534-0034
Rep.Swearingen@legis.wi.gov

Room 123 West
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Representative Rob Swearingen

May 27, 2021

(608) 266-7141

Lakeland STAR Academy Passes in the Joint Committee on Finance

Madison, WI – Today, the Joint Committee on Finance passed a budget motion to allocate \$750,000 over the biennium budget to Lakeland STAR School (7-8th grade) and STAR Academy (9-12th grade). Lakeland STAR Academy, located in Minocqua, is a one-of-a-kind school in Wisconsin that accommodates students with autism, learning, and cognitive disabilities. Representative Rob Swearingen (R-Rhineland) made the following statement:

“I am very pleased that the Joint Finance Committee is prioritizing students with autism, learning, and cognitive disabilities in the Northwoods. As more children are being diagnosed with autism around the state and around the country, the passing of this budget motion reveals that Wisconsin is taking a proactive approach to helping one of the most underserved demographics. Too often are the needs of rural Wisconsinites overlooked, and funding this incredible educational institution shows that the Joint Finance Committee is focusing on the right issues.”

Last month, Rep. Swearingen was joined by members of the Joint Finance Committee to tour Lakeland STAR Academy, where they witnessed the immense impact that STAR Academy has on its students and the community at large.

“I have advocated and fought for this funding for years, and it is incredible to see these efforts pay off. I celebrate this win for our district, and most importantly, for the children who will now have the tremendous opportunity to live a fulfilling, independent life.” Rep. Swearingen added.

Lakeland STAR Academy caters to predominantly autistic students with the goal of providing its students with the confidence and determination to live self-sufficiently and find gainful employment post-education.

Representative Swearingen represents the 34th Assembly District, which includes the Northwoods counties of Oneida, Vilas, Florence and portions of Forest.

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