



# CHRIS LARSON

## STATE SENATOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Once Again, GOP Failed to Close the Education Gap**

**Milwaukee, WI** – Today, Republicans in the Wisconsin State Assembly conducted an extraordinary session in a failed attempt to override the Governor’s veto on Assembly Bill 369. This legislation would have ended the extended pandemic-related unemployment benefits needed by neighbors in our community one month before it expires. Given that the legislature was convening, Governor Evers saw an opportunity to have legislators close the education funding gap and called for a Special Session on education funding. Sen. Larson issued the following statement on the special session today:

“After a failed attempt to override Governor Evers’ veto of AB 369, the GOP-led Legislature ignored the governor’s call to readdress the lack of school funding allocated in the recent state budget, wasting another opportunity to close the education gap. The governor had proposed investing \$550 million in much-needed funds into public education, with a total of \$440 million going to K-12 schools; \$240 million of this for increasing per-pupil aid by \$146 per student and \$200 million of this into special education aids. Additionally, \$110 of the \$550 million would be allocated for higher education.

“Republicans ended the Governor’s Special Session with not a word about education, proving yet again that they would rather play petty, political games, than addressing the needs of our children and schools.

“Our kids need adequate resources to achieve a quality education. Wisconsin children have been deprived of the two-thirds funding promise for 17 years, just for it to barely be met in this year’s budget. Republicans did the bare minimum for schools and clearly violated the intent behind the maintenance of effort and maintenance of equity mandated by the federal government for the \$2.3 billion in education aid Wisconsin is eligible for. Despite education leaders’ desperate pleas for adequate funding and additional resources, Republicans ignored their call.

“The Governor opened the door for Republicans to fix the shortcomings of education funding in the budget, but they slammed the door right in the face of every school kid in Wisconsin. Our kids are worth more than 30 seconds.”

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