



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
**CHRISTIAN
PHELPS**

93RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Rep. Phelps: Nearly Two-Thirds of School Districts Lose More State Aid—Because of Politics

MADISON, WI – State Representative Christian Phelps (D–Eau Claire) responded Friday to newly released figures from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) showing that nearly two-thirds of Wisconsin school districts will receive less state aid during the 2026–27 school year.

According to DPI, 261 of Wisconsin's 421 school districts (62%) will receive less general aid this year, about a \$115 million decrease in funding. The state's general school aid appropriation has remained flat for three consecutive years, while diesel costs skyrocket and the overall cost of educating our students climbs. DPI attributed the reduction of school aid to stagnant state funding, Wisconsin's outdated school funding formula, and the growth of public spending on unaccountable private voucher schools.

"Nearly two-thirds of Wisconsin school districts are losing state aid at a time when families, educators, and property taxpayers are being stretched thin," said Rep. Phelps. "We have the resources to fix this problem, and we have a responsibility to lead by doing so."

Earlier this year, Rep. Phelps and Rep. Angelina Cruz (D–Racine), introduced [Assembly Bill 1176](#) with the support of the full Assembly Democratic caucus. This legislation would have increased general school funding to buy down property taxes and raised the state's special education reimbursement to 60%. The Republican majority ignored the proposal.

"Public schools across Wisconsin are closing, and property taxpayers continue to shoulder more of the burden while the state [hoards billions of dollars in unpaid bills](#)," continued Phelps.

"Wisconsinites are paying twice for diminishing public school services because of decisions made in Madison. That is not fair."

"We already have a serious plan on the table. Assembly Bill 1176 would pay the state's unpaid bills for general school aids, keep our promises on special education, and reduce the pressure on local property taxpayers. Responsible leaders are prepared to pass this legislation."

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Rep. Christian Phelps represents the 93rd Assembly District, covering parts of Dunn, Eau Claire, and Trempealeau Counties.