FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 13, 2026

Joint Statement from WASB, WASDA, and WiRSA

The Wisconsin Association of School Boards, the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators, and the Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance have issued the following joint statement:

Public schools are the foundation of Wisconsin's future. We welcome the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's 2027-29 budget request, which proposes changes to the school funding formula to better meet students' needs while keeping the total statewide school property tax levy flat.

The proposal reflects longstanding priorities of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB), the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators (WASDA), and the Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WiRSA). Specifically, it addresses three key priorities our members have advocated for:

- **Increase state funding for special education**
- **Restore inflationary adjustments to school district revenue limits**
- **Provide additional support to districts with the lowest revenue limits**

School districts continue to face rising costs for transportation, insurance, and specialized services. When state reimbursement falls short of the cost of providing legally required special education services, districts must use general operating funds to cover the difference, leaving fewer resources available for other educational needs.

Too many communities already rely on operating referendums to maintain essential school services, placing additional pressure on local taxpayers and making long-term financial planning more difficult.

By pairing higher revenue limits with increased general school aid, the proposal would provide districts with more predictable funding to help keep pace with rising costs. It would also give locally elected school boards in rural, suburban, and urban communities greater flexibility to allocate resources based on the needs of their students.

As we continue to review the full proposal, we look forward to working with the legislature and the governor to advance practical reforms that our members have supported for many years. By providing schools with more stable and predictable funding, Wisconsin can better support student success while reducing pressure on local property taxpayers.

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