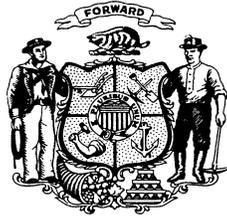


STATE OF WISCONSIN

SENATE CHAIR
Howard Marklein

316 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Phone: (608) 266-0703



ASSEMBLY CHAIR
Mark Born

308 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952
Phone: (608) 266-2540

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

For Immediate Release
Senator Howard Marklein – (608) 266-0703
Representative Mark Born – (608) 266-2540

May 27, 2021

Republicans Make Significant Investments in K-12 Education

Madison – The Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Finance, State Representative Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam) and State Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green), released the following statement prior to the committee’s executive session on education funding in the 2021-23 biennial budget.

“Today, Legislative Republicans will make significant investments in our student’s education even as we continue to see massive amounts of federal cash flood our school districts. Year after year, we have invested in our kids, our teachers and our schools. This year is no different.”

The Education proposal being advanced by Legislative Republicans on the Joint Committee on Finance achieves the following:

- Nearly \$500 million in new state funding.
- Sets aside \$350 million to maintain education funding stability in the future.
- Guarantees a minimum of \$781 per pupil to all school districts if the schools were in person more than 50% of the 2020-21 school year.
- Increases Special Education Categorical Aids by nearly 10% or by \$86 million to 30% of eligible costs - the highest dollar levels ever.
- Doubles Mental Health Categorical Aids by providing an additional \$12 million.
- Provides \$7 million for school-based mental health collaboration grants – a 54% increase, which meets the Governor’s proposal.
- Increases sparsity aid by \$6.3 million and expands eligibility.
- Invests roughly \$13 million in High Cost Transportation Aid.

“Governor Evers should support this K-12 budget. We have met him on several items we know are important to both he and Legislative Republicans like mental health funding and hitting 30% of eligible costs for Special Education Categorical Aids. These investments are above and beyond the billions in federal funding our school districts are receiving and highlight our continued commitment to our students, teachers, and parents.

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