

News Release

Education Information Services ■ 125 South Webster Street ■ P.O. Box 7841 ■ Madison, WI 53707-7841 ■ (608) 266-3559

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI-NR 2013-12

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Contact: Patrick Gasper, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

State revenue estimate supports viability of ‘Fair Funding’ plan

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers issued a statement on the Department of Administration’s (DOA’s) recent revenue estimate that shows at least \$1.3 billion in anticipated new revenue for the upcoming biennium and the Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) school funding memorandum that confirms school aid figures in his “Fair Funding for Our Future” plan.

“The DOA estimate of 2013-15 state revenue clearly takes away the argument that there is not enough money to invest in our kids’ education. With an anticipated \$1.3 billion in new revenue for the next biennium, we have the ability to reinvest in public schools, fix our school finance system, and provide funding for other state priorities. Currently, the state spends 40 percent of the general fund on school aids. If the \$1.3 billion in projected revenue growth is allocated proportionately, that would mean about \$520 million in new revenue to support our schools, which is certainly enough to implement my Fair Funding for Our Future plan.

“The LFB’s recent analysis of my Fair Funding proposal shows it works for school districts, students, and taxpayers. The plan:

- guarantees \$3,000 per student in state general aid to every district;
- incorporates an income-based, ability-to-pay factor into the school aid formula, which will benefit communities that have high property values but low median incomes;
- provides more funding stability and predictability for school districts, moving us toward two-thirds state support for education;
- increases transparency in funding schools by directing all state support directly to school boards; and
- provides modest revenue limit growth and holds the line on property taxes for the next two years through additional investments.

“The last state budget cut state school aid by nearly \$800 million and reduced revenue limit authority in all school districts. These reductions resulted in fewer teachers, larger class sizes, and diminished opportunities for students. We have the resources to invest in our schools and fix our school finance system. Without changes, our

(more)

school boards will experience large fluctuations in state resources and continued budgeting uncertainty, making it difficult to prepare students to graduate ready for college and careers.

“My Fair Funding plan delivers meaningful solutions to reform school funding. Over the past months, Governor Walker, legislators from both parties, other elected officials, editorial boards, and community leaders have shown an interest in this proposal. I look forward to continuing to work together with leaders from across the political spectrum to reform how we fund our schools.”

###

NOTES: More information about “Fair Funding for Our Future” is available at <http://fairfunding.dpi.wi.gov/>.

The “Agency Budget Requests and Revenue Estimates: FY 2014 and FY 2015,” released by the Department of Administration on Nov. 20, 2012, can be found at <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=9976&locid=166>.

The Legislative Fiscal Bureau’s memo, “State Superintendent's School Finance Proposal — 2013-15 Agency Request,” is available at http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/publications/Miscellaneous/Documents/2013_01_16WI%20Leg_RK.pdf.

This statement is available electronically at http://news.dpi.wi.gov/files/eis/pdf/dpinr2013_12.pdf.