

Central Wisconsin Community Group Tired of Waiting for State Legislature to Reform K-12 Public School Funding

Stevens Point, WI, 1/10/2013 – “School Funding Reform for Wisconsin”, a grassroots community organization based in Stevens Point, is challenging state legislators to change the way Wisconsin’s public schools are funded. “We have seen the failures of the 20-year-old funding formula, the lack of funding for many of Wisconsin’s public schools, the resulting lawsuits, and the unwillingness of legislators to consider changes to their failed policy,” explained School Funding member Jeri McGinley. “Last year’s deep cuts to education were a terrible response to our state’s budget needs. Budgets are a reflection of priorities and public schools are critical to Wisconsin’s growth. Wisconsin residents should be very concerned by the priorities of our state legislators.”

School Funding Reform for Wisconsin is supporting Superintendent Tony Evers’ plan “Fair Funding for Our Future” and wants legislators to support it as well. Beginning in January, School Funding Reform for Wisconsin will be joining with others throughout Wisconsin in contacting all state legislators with the request that they support “Fair Funding” in the upcoming budget talks (<http://www.reformwi.org/our-approach.html>). Michele Bjella, a member who has been involved in school funding reform efforts for over ten years, explained, “Fair Funding is a good start to delivering to school districts the resources they need to provide the opportunities that children need to learn and succeed in life.”

“It’s simple,” added McGinley. “Until our governor and state legislators know that our children’s education is a priority for us, it won’t be a priority for them.”

School Funding Reform for Wisconsin formed in 2010 to focus attention on the need for school funding reform for K-12 education in Wisconsin. Based in Stevens Point, this grassroots organization is an all-volunteer effort that is reaching out to other groups in the state that share its concern about public school funding. For more information, contact Jeri McGinley at 715-344-9525 or reformwi@gmail.com. School Funding Reform for Wisconsin has both a website (www.reformwi.org) and a Facebook page (School Funding Reform for Wisconsin).

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