

# SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM FOR WISCONSIN

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### PORTAGE COUNTY COMMUNITY MEMBERS JOIN CALL FOR RESTORED FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Funding Reform for Wisconsin has joined public school advocates from around the state in calling for restored funding for public schools. Area school districts are struggling not only with large funding cuts, but also with inequitable revenue limits created in 1993. The Stevens Point Area Public School District, for example, is the 16<sup>th</sup> largest district in the state, but it ranks 344<sup>th</sup> out of the 424 districts in per-pupil spending.

*School Funding Reform for Wisconsin joined nineteen other groups in issuing the following statement:*

We represent parents and communities from around Wisconsin who believe that every child deserves equal access to an excellent public education.

Since 1993, our ability to locally control and fund our schools has been restricted by revenue limits. During the last decade, funding has stagnated and revenue limits have actually been frozen for the past two years. Funding for students with disabilities has been capped for eight years and Wisconsin schools are still reeling from the largest funding cuts in history, a cumulative decrease of \$2.6 billion since 2011 according to the State of Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

A revenue limit increase of at least \$300 per pupil per year, with sufficient aid support from the state, would be a step of good faith toward restoring that lost funding and reinvesting our tax dollars where they belong: in the success of the 850,000-plus children attending Wisconsin's excellent public schools.

Wisconsin children have paid the price for tax cuts and other state spending long enough. Restoring funding to the public schools that are the heart of our communities should be the first priority in the 2017-2019 budget, and that restoration begins with an increase to the revenue limit of at least \$300/student.

Signed,

Advocates for Education of Whitefish Bay  
Citizen Advocates for Public Education  
(CAPE), Lake Mills  
Citizen Advocates for Public Education  
(CAPE-MCPASD), Middleton-Cross Plains  
Citizens for Educational Excellence -  
Menomonee Falls  
Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education  
Families United for Spooner Excellence  
Green Bay Advocates 4 Public Education  
GRUMPS (GRandparents for Madison Public  
Schools)  
No Vouchers Coalition

Parents for Public Schools – Milwaukee  
Project 13 (Eau Claire)  
Saint Croix Valley Friends of Public Education  
School Funding Reform for Wisconsin  
Stop Special Needs Vouchers  
Support Oshkosh Students (S.O.S.)  
Support Our Schools (SOS) - SW Wisconsin  
Support Our Schools - SOS-Wauwatosa  
Support Sun Prairie Schools  
Watertown CAPS: Community Advocates 4 Public  
Schools  
YES for Oak Creek Schools

*[School Funding Reform for Wisconsin is a grassroots organization based in Stevens Point. Established in 2010, its mission is to support Wisconsin's K-12 public schools. For more information, visit [www.reformwi.org](http://www.reformwi.org) or the group's Facebook page: School Funding Reform for Wisconsin.]*

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