

**3-16-15 RESOLUTION OF
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ARCADIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
ARCADIA, WISCONSIN**

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has a long tradition of providing a high-quality public education system and investing in public education is an investment not only in our students' capacity for success beyond high school but an investment in economic development and the future of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, since the 1993-94 school year, school districts have been operating under state imposed revenue limits that cap the amount that schools can collect in state aid and local property taxes combined, and thus serve to limit school spending; and

WHEREAS, until recently, revenue limits have been increased annually at the rate of inflation to accommodate increases in costs to school districts and provide a stable and predictable annual increase for schools to use in budgetary planning; and

WHEREAS, Governor Walker's proposed 2015-17 state budget allows no increase in revenue limits in either the 2015-16 or 2016-17 school years; and

WHEREAS, with no increase in per pupil revenue limits, none of the additional state dollars proposed for K-12 education general aid (i.e., \$108 million in 2016-17) will go to classrooms, rather, it must instead be directed to reducing property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the budget proposal eliminates \$150 per pupil in per pupil aid in 2015-16, an immediate and actual cut of \$127 million public education funding statewide. Because this aid has been provided outside the revenue limit, districts have no authority to levy property taxes (i.e., cannot recapture) this lost aid, and

WHEREAS, this decrease results in \$171,900 "base" cut to the School District of Arcadia,

WHEREAS, in addition to the year 1 decrease of \$150 per pupil, Governor Walker's budget plan also includes no revenue limit per pupil increase.

WHEREAS, the proposed budget includes additional funding for sparsity aid and high-cost pupil transportation aid targeted to rural school districts, not all rural school districts qualify for this aid and for those that do qualify, the amounts received are unlikely to offset the loss of per pupil aid in 2015-16; and

WHEREAS, even though the Governor proposed to add about 142 million (about \$165 per pupil) to the per-pupil categorical aid in the second year of the biennium, the net result is a cut of approximately of \$135 per pupil (\$112 million) over the biennium;

WHEREAS, the proposed budget also expands the taxpayer subsidies to private voucher schools and independent charter schools, which will take additional money away from state general aid to school districts (on top of the cuts) and reduce opportunities for public school children; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget provides an additional \$105.6 million in each year to increase the school levy tax credit, this money will be paid to municipalities not school districts and does not provide resources directly to schools. Although the name of this tax credit suggests it has something to do with money for schools, its only connection to school budgets is that it is calculated based on school levies; and

WHEREAS, Governor Walker and various legislators have made public comments in support of increasing funding for public schools if additional state revenue is available after April tax collections are counted;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the School District of Arcadia Board of Education calls upon Kathleen Vinehout and Chris Danou to work with their legislative colleagues to revise the Governor's budget to restore school funding in 2015-17 to educationally adequate levels to include no decrease in year 1 anticipated revenue while also providing for inflationary revenue increases in both years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being all of the members of the Board of Education for the School District of Arcadia, have executed this resolution this 16th day of March, 2015.


Jeffry Sorenson, Board President


Loren Wolfe, Board Vice President


Cletus Foegen, Board Treasurer


Larry Bork, Board Clerk


Mike Edmunds, Board Member


Randy Niljestuen, Board Member


Scott Schank, Board Member