

Dear Parents and Concerned Citizens of the Denmark School District:

The State budget is winding its way through the legislature and will be in front of Governor Walker soon. There are a number of provisions the Denmark School Board and Administration want parents to be aware of and reach out to legislators to let your voice be heard.

For more details, please go to the link below from the Wisconsin Association of School Board Members (WASB). WASB is run by school board members from across the State who come from both sides of the political aisle. **THESE PROPOSALS HAVE A VERY GOOD CHANCE OF PASSING UNLESS PARENTS MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD TO STATE LEGISLATORS.**

There is also a video link to help explain the negative impact of diminishing State support of public schools.

- No increase in funding from 2014-15 to 2015-16. While legislators may claim they are “fully funding” education, because of inflationary increases, this is a cut for schools trying to do the same with less. For the first time ever, Wisconsin will fall below the average in spending on public education in comparison of states across the nation.
- Voucher Expansion: The State now spends over \$200 million a year on private school vouchers, but this could grow to close to \$800 million a year during the next 10 years. The money for voucher schools comes from sales and income tax collected from all taxpayers.
- Districts would be forced to pay more to private schools, over \$7000 per year, than what each district now reimburses each other for open enrollment students - \$6600 per year.
- Home school students would be allowed to participate in WIAA events. Schools would have no way of verifying attendance, academic performance or disciplinary behavior of home school students, but schools would be expected to have an athletic code of conduct for public school students.
- Devaluing the high school experience by allowing a student to receive 50% of their credits through portfolio experience. This is so poorly defined in legislation; no one knows what this even means.
- While giving hundreds of millions of dollars to private schools, the assessments used to determine if the instruction is effective would not be the same. There would be no way to compare students to see if taxpayer dollars are being used effectively.
- Anyone with a bachelor’s degree, without expertise in the subject matter, would be able to teach MS/HS Math, Science, English or Social Studies. For other areas in MS/HS anyone, even a person **without** a HS Diploma would be allowed to teach.

**If you disagree with the proposals, please contact the Governor and Legislators below:**

**Contacts:**

Governor Walker [govgeneral@wisconsin.gov](mailto:govgeneral@wisconsin.gov)

**Mail**

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115 East Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

**Phone**

(608) 266-1212

Scott Fitzgerald Senate Majority Leader [Sen.Fitzgerald@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Fitzgerald@legis.wisconsin.gov) (608)266-5660

Robin Vos Assembly Speaker [Rep.Vos@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Vos@legis.wisconsin.gov) (262) 514-2597

Alberta Darling Senate Co-Chair, Joint Finance Committee [Sen.Darlings@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Darlings@legis.wisconsin.gov) - 608-266-5830

John Nygren Assembly Co-Chair, Joint Finance Committee [Rep.Nygren@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Nygren@legis.wisconsin.gov) – 608-266-2343

Denmark's Representatives

Frank Lasee - [Sen.Lasee@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Lasee@legis.wisconsin.gov) – 608-266-3512

Andre Jacque - [Rep.Jacque@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Jacque@legis.wisconsin.gov) – 888-534-0002

Wisconsin School Board Association link for more details:

<https://wasblegupdate.wordpress.com/2015/06/05/talking-points-on-the-joint-finance-committee-budget/#more-616>

Video of decline in State support for schools:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LH1k7C3E2l8&feature=youtu.be>