



School Administrators Alliance

Representing the Interests of Wisconsin School Children

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Statement from the School Administrators Alliance on Governor Evers' Budget Introduction

MADISON — John Forester, executive director for the School Administrators Alliance, released the following statement on the budget Governor Tony Evers introduced last night.

“Over the course of his campaign for governor, and in the short time he has served as our governor, time and again Tony Evers has emphasized the importance of putting Wisconsin's children first. In his first state budget, he does exactly that, with an unprecedented proposal to increase funding for Wisconsin school children by \$1.4 billion.

In doing so, Governor Evers addresses each of the highest-priority educational needs identified by public school administrators throughout Wisconsin.

Governor Evers recognizes that every school district needs at least a \$200 per-pupil general revenue increase in each year of the biennium to support quality educational opportunities for the children they serve.

One of the greatest sources of inequity in Wisconsin's school finance system is the egregious under-funding of categorical aids for some of our most vulnerable students, coupled with the fiscal impact of that under-funding on districts with disproportionately large populations of high-needs students.

Governor Evers attacked this problem head-on in his executive budget, proposing unprecedented increases in categorical aid funding for students with disabilities and English language learners.

While we greatly appreciate the school mental health investments made in the 2017-19 state budget, it is clear the governor believes that a much stronger, long-term commitment from the state is necessary to support schools in their efforts to connect students with the mental health services they need.

Finally, the governor has introduced many evidence-based educational policy initiatives that merit serious discussion in this budget process. We look forward to working with the governor and state legislators to shape effective policy in these areas.

Budgets are about choices. They are about priorities. Clearly, the governor developed his K-12 education initiatives to support equitable educational opportunities for children—no matter their zip code or their educational needs. This budget is a major step forward for Wisconsin school children.

Thank you, Governor Evers.”

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The SAA is an alliance of the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA), Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials (WASBO), Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators (WASDA), Wisconsin Association of School Personnel Administrators (WASPA) and Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services (WCASS). It advocates on behalf of school leaders in their efforts to strengthen Wisconsin's national leadership in education to ensure that the state's children receive the highest-quality education possible.