

Resolution 1415R-013

By Director Miller

WHEREAS, It is important that parents and citizens of the state have a clear understanding of the state budget and its implications for funding at the school district level; and

WHEREAS, When Governor Walker publicly presented his proposed biennial budget on February 3, he stated, “our budget will increase state support for schools by providing more than \$100 million annually for the school levy tax credit and more than \$100 million in the second year of the budget for equalization aids — while maintaining revenue limits to ensure continuing property tax relief,” no mention was made of the cut of \$150 per pupil (\$127 million statewide) in special categorical aid in the first year of the proposed budget;

WHEREAS, Such a decrease would result in a “base” cut to the Milwaukee Public Schools of approximately \$12.1 million in 2015-2016; and

WHEREAS, While cutting \$150 per pupil in the first year — funding that, under current law, would be provided in each year of the 2015-17 biennium — Governor Walker’s budget plan provides no increase per pupil in the revenue limit even to minimally cover inflation, a provision commonly included in previous state budgets that recognized the costs associated with maintaining programs for students; and

WHEREAS, When the base cut and the lack of an inflationary increase in the revenue cap are factored together, the overall result is a total reduction conservatively estimated at \$23 million in funding for the provision of educational opportunities for children in the Milwaukee Public Schools; and

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

WHEREAS, Although the Governor also proposes spending \$211.2 million in increased school-levy credits (\$105.6 million in each year) and \$108 million in increased general aid, with no corresponding increase in the revenue limit, this \$319 million is “school funding in name only” —none of which schools will be able to spend to meet the educational needs of their students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors join with other school districts in the State of Wisconsin to strongly encourage the Governor and the State Legislature to revise the Governor’s proposed budget to restore school funding in 2015-17 to levels adequate to fund public education in Wisconsin and to reject any decrease in anticipated revenue in the first year of the biennium, while also providing for inflationary revenue increases in both years; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Resolution be spread upon the permanent Record of this Board, and that the Board direct the Board Clerk to prepare and to present engrossed copies of this Resolution, suitably signed and sealed, to the Governor and to the State Legislature.

Adopted this 26th Day of February, 2015,

Michael Bonds, President
Milwaukee Board of School Directors

February 26, 2015