

News Release

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Impact of per pupil revenue limit reduction estimated at \$1.68 billion

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers called the proposed 5.5 percent reduction on school district per pupil revenue limits contained in the 2011-13 budget a crushing challenge to public school districts.

An estimate of the impact of the revenue limit changes over the biennium shows that public school districts will lose \$1.68 billion in revenue authority in the governor's proposed budget. School districts also face proposed cuts of \$835 million in state school aids over the biennium. (A spreadsheet showing estimated 2011-12 and 2012-13 revenue limit changes by district is available at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/xls/dpinr2011_26.xlsx.)

"Children are our future," Evers said. "Our parents, and all Wisconsin's citizens, want the same or better educational opportunities for their children as they had. Public education in Wisconsin has historically been a bipartisan priority. I welcome the opportunity to work with legislators and the governor to protect our children's public schools."

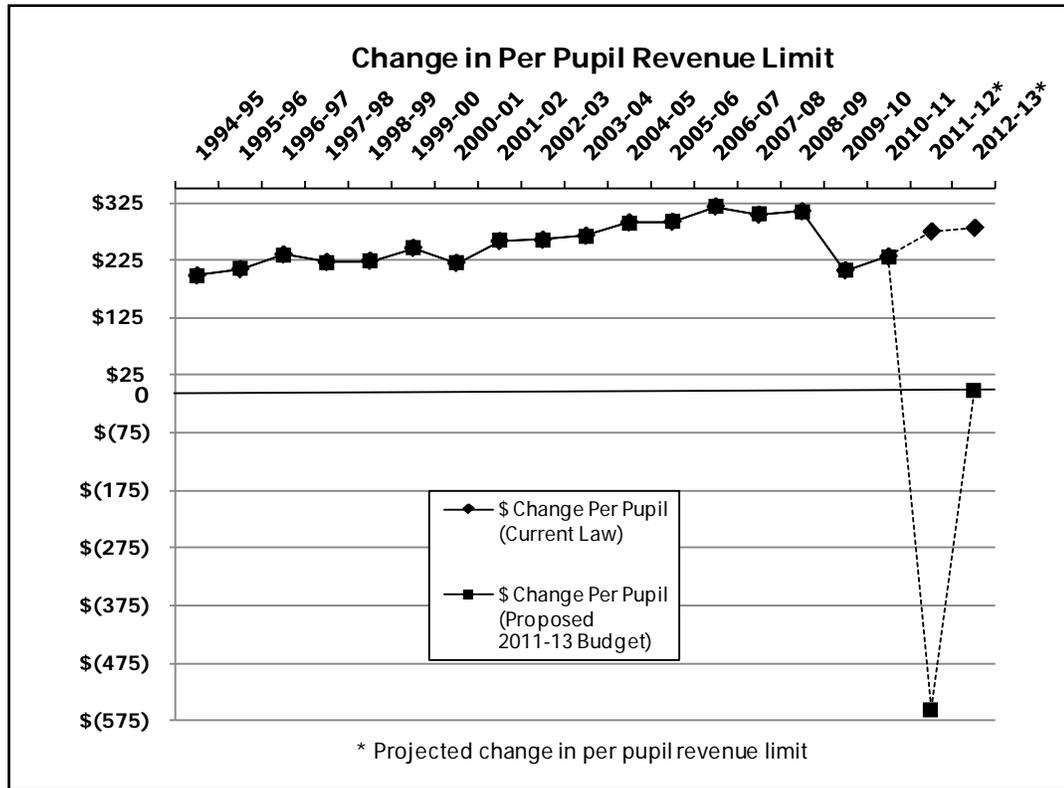
Revenue limits began in 1993-94 to restrict school district property tax increases in exchange for two-thirds state funding of school district costs. In most years since enacted, the per pupil revenue limit has increased modestly, around the rate of inflation, but still required most school districts to make cuts to balance costs and revenues. The requirement for state support of education at the two-thirds level was eliminated in the 2003-05 biennium. For this school year, the state will fund about 63 percent of school costs.

Recent school meal reimbursement data shows that 41.4 percent of students statewide qualify for free or reduced-price school meals based on family income. Census data shows that Wisconsin's overall poverty rate in 2009 is nearly 15 percent, a more than 25 percent increase from the previous year. The increase in poverty in Wisconsin between 2008 and 2009 is the fifth highest in the country.

"At a time when more families are in poverty and two out of five students qualify for subsidized school meals, this budget proposal is a crushing challenge to our public schools, especially by the second year of the budget,"

(more)

Evers said “School districts have been cutting their budgets for 18 years under revenue limits while trying to maintain the quality education Wisconsin residents expect from their public schools. School leaders strive to graduate students prepared for the workforce or further education, but are facing escalating costs outside their control, such as the cost of fuel, electricity, and facility maintenance, as well as massive cuts in this proposed budget.”



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NOTE: Charts and a spreadsheet of district-by-district estimated 2011-12 and 2012-13 revenue limit changes are available on the Department of Public Instruction newsroom website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/newsroom.html>. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2011_26.pdf.