

News Release

Education Information Services ■ 125 South Webster Street ■ P.O. Box 7841 ■ Madison, WI 53707-7841 ■ (608) 266-3559

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI-NR 2013-30

Thursday, February 21, 2013

Contact: Patrick Gasper, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

Statement on 2013-15 budget bill

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers issued the following statement regarding the newly introduced state budget bill.

“Freezing revenue caps for our 870,000 public school students, undermining local control, and funding road construction at the expense of our kids is not a pathway to prosperity.

“The mantra from legislative leaders has been that we must increase opportunities for all kids. But the last two state budgets have played favorites — protecting or increasing voucher school funding, while cutting or freezing spending on public school students. This must stop.

“The Legislature must raise the revenue limit and ensure public school students also share in the state’s prosperity. There is enough state revenue growth to raise the revenue limit and hold the line on property taxes. We need a state budget that supports all of Wisconsin’s kids.

“Our public schools experienced historic cuts in the last budget, on top of two decades of revenue caps. The real losers have been our children in public schools, who already have 5,200 fewer staff and teachers in their schools.

“This budget will mean more of the same with bigger class sizes, fewer educators, and reduced course offerings — while at the same time implementing great changes that ask more than ever of our public schools.

“However, while I strongly disagree with the governor’s funding proposal and voucher expansion, this budget supports many of the areas where we have worked together. I appreciate his support for the ACT assessment, data systems, student academic and career plans, and educator effectiveness program. Now with a budget surplus and dramatically increased state revenues, we have the opportunity to reinvest in our public schools. Resources and funding are needed locally, in classrooms, to make these efforts truly transforming.

“I call on our Legislature to reverse this budget’s continued defunding of public education. I stand ready to provide any support I can to make sure we don’t leave Wisconsin’s public school students behind for another biennial budget.”

###

NOTE: This statement is available electronically at http://news.dpi.wi.gov/files/eis/pdf/dpinr2013_30.pdf.