

News Release

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Revenue projection opens opportunity for Fair Funding

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers issued the following statement regarding state budget revenue projections being \$575 million higher than recently projected.

“We have a tremendous opportunity to strengthen Wisconsin’s future by investing in our children and our public schools. With the Legislative Fiscal Bureau’s announcement related to additional state revenues now totaling nearly \$1.8 billion higher than estimated a year ago at the close of the last legislative session, we can reverse the major cuts to public education that were imposed in the current budget.

“Investing in public education is economic development. My budget proposal called for reinvestment in our public schools, including funding for categorical aid supporting special education, English language learner programs, pupil transportation costs, as well as helping our rural districts through the sparsity aid program. In addition, with my Fair Funding proposal, which has bipartisan support, I provided a plan that will do this and hold the line on property taxes.

“We can implement the Fair Funding plan, which provides a minimum amount of state aid for every student, includes poverty as a factor into the school aid formula, and establishes sustainability in state funding. With these new revenue projections, we can do all this for Wisconsin, and there will be revenue remaining to support other important state needs.

“I have repeatedly said that state budgets are about priorities. Let’s make our 870,000 public school students the first priority.”

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://www.dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2013_62.pdf.