

News Release

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Voucher expansion inflated yet again

Previous limits couldn't last two weeks

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers made a statement today regarding additional private and religious school voucher expansion in Assembly Republicans' budget "technical" amendment.

"Well, it sure seems a handshake is not a deal when it comes to the ideologically driven, financially reckless, and academically unproven push to expand vouchers for private and religious schools statewide. Heck, the limits on statewide voucher expansion couldn't even last two weeks or wait for the budget to be signed into law.

"And, there is a new twist. Again, without a single public hearing, this amendment potentially prohibits the Department of Public Instruction from sharing information about the publically funded voucher schools with parents, taxpayers, media, and the public. What are they working so hard to hide? How does one even make a choice if there is no transparency?

"This amendment puts taxpayers on the hook for another \$5 million this budget, on top of \$415 million for private and religious schooling, to subsidize more vouchers and increase a structural deficit already at more than \$550 million.

"In the end this "technical" amendment sends a clear message that the new statewide voucher entitlement program will expand dramatically over time to cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and seriously jeopardize constitutional obligations to our public school kids."

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NOTE: This statement is available electronically at http://news.dpi.wi.gov/files/eis/pdf/dpinr2013_78.pdf.