

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Evers statement on Supreme Court case

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers issued a statement today related to oral arguments before the Wisconsin Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the process for drafting and promulgating administrative rules contained in 2011 Wisconsin Act 21.

“Direct election of our leaders is at the center of our democracy. The people of Wisconsin have twice elected me to be their state superintendent of public instruction. I take that responsibility to be the champion and leader for our kids, their parents, and our public schools very seriously.

“This case was brought by private citizens concerned about protecting our state’s constitution. This case is really about continuing the administrative rule making authority of the Legislature and elected state superintendent, preserving the constitutional roles that have existed since 1848.

“The framers of the Wisconsin Constitution intended that the state’s public education system be overseen by the state superintendent of public instruction, an independent, nonpartisan constitutional officer directly elected by the people. This case simply seeks to preserve this arrangement by ensuring the state superintendent and Legislature determine rules and policies that guide the education of our children.

“I look to the Wisconsin Supreme Court to affirm the conservative, strict interpretations of two lower court rulings in this case. Now is not the time for activist court rulings that overturn long-standing constitutional precedence.”

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NOTE: This statement is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_113.pdf.