

## News Release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 13, 2015

Contact: Tom McCarthy, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

DPI-NR 2015-70

### Evers urges families and communities to keep stepping up for public education

*2015-17 budget does not reflect public priorities for public schools*

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers issued a statement related to the governor signing the 2015-17 executive budget into law.

“In the last four state budgets, our public schools have taken a back seat to other priorities. As overall state spending has increased, our commitment to public schools has not kept pace. That trend has caused Wisconsin to fall almost below the national average in expenditures per student. Our most vulnerable populations, students with disabilities, those learning English, and students in poverty, have seen their support from the state flat-lined as costs have increased. We are at a tipping point where communities that can afford to intervene on behalf of kids do. But those who cannot are left with a legacy of less. This runs counter to the system of public schools our state’s founders enshrined in the Wisconsin Constitution.

“Funding problems are being exacerbated by the constant policy changes from Madison. Each session, we move the goal posts in regards to what we expect from our schools and educators, setting them up for failure. This is taking its toll on the profession. We are seeing fewer teachers-in-training stepping up to fill vacancies, and the educators left are being asked to do more with less. That is not fair.

“We have much to be proud of in our public schools. Wisconsin is a national leader in graduation rates and achievement on Advanced Placement exams. A debt of gratitude is owed to the educators who have worked through less than ideal conditions on behalf of our kids and the future of Wisconsin.

“Across the state, families and communities have stepped up to protect public schools. While this budget did not deliver anything close to what they asked, the momentum they have built is tangible and must remain. The future depends on parents’ and communities’ ability to stay engaged and win legislative support to keep our public schools strong with needed investments.”

###

**NOTE:** This statement is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015\\_70.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_70.pdf).