

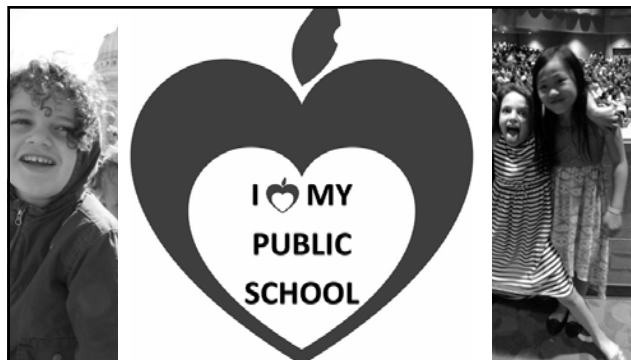
“LOOK FOR THE HELPERS”
How Wisconsin public education advocates can help solve our funding crisis

Heather DuBois Bourenane

Crisis in Wisconsin's K-12 Education Funding
League of Women Voters of Dane County

Madison, WI
October 4, 2017

WISCONSIN PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK



**Every child deserves an
equally excellent
public school.
No exceptions.**



Wisconsin Constitution, Article X, Section 3

“The legislature shall provide by law for the establishment of district schools, which shall be as nearly uniform as practicable; and such schools shall be free and without charge for tuition to all children between the ages of 4 and 20 years; and no sectarian instruction shall be allowed therein.”

Who we are



We are an inclusive, non-partisan coalition connecting ALL public education supporters to information, actions, and each other.

**WISCONSIN
PUBLIC
EDUCATION
NETWORK**



The people who know and care the most about our students and schools should be **HEARD** the **LOUDEST** and **RESPECTED** the **MOST**.



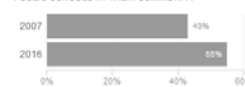
PUBLIC OPINION:
Strong bipartisan support



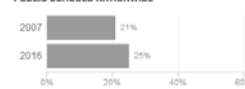
Higher Regard For Local Schools Than Schools Nationwide

Share that would give an 'A' or 'B' grade to...

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THEIR COMMUNITY



PUBLIC SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE



Source: Education Next
Credit: Kate Parshum

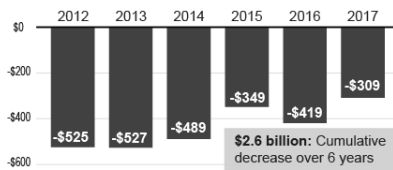
2016: Record referenda passed statewide (80% of 155)

2017: 80% favor increase to public school funding

Wisconsin is **\$709 million/year** below 2009 funding levels

Wisconsin School Funding Still Below 2011 Levels

State General Purpose Revenue budgeted funding for K-12 school aids compared to 2011 amount, in millions. Amounts are adjusted for inflation and shown by fiscal year.



Source: Legislative Fiscal Bureau

WISCONSIN BUDGET PROJECT

Policy & local control
Major issues in 2017



Issues in 2017:

- Voucher Accountability Bills
- 2017-2019 Biennial BUDGET
- Community Schools bill
- BATHROOM BILL
- REFERENDA bills limit local control
- Roads, Schools & Politics
- Federal funds, AHCA changes
- Special education funding
- GUNS in schools
- ???

Real challenges

- Teacher Shortages / morale
- Testing and "School Report Cards"
- Accountability debates
- Local conflicts – State conflicts
- Special education needs
- Urban and rural issues

What do public education advocates want?




- 1 Full and fair funding
- 2 Local control of local schools
- 3 A voice in decision-making
- 4 Policy that helps kids
- 5 Moratorium on voucher expansion + accountability
- 6 No more political games

How can we get there?




Public input. Public policy.
#MakeItLocal

Stay informed

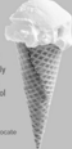


BUDGET ASK
What do Wisconsin public schools need in the 2017-2019 budget? At a minimum...
Per-pupil funding \$200-\$300 per pupil MINIMUM in spendable state aid. Aid should be fairly distributed with no strings attached. Proposed aid is a good start but just means inflation & does not restore historic cuts. We don't need more red tape. We need to invest to succeed! success! Increase to 30% reimbursement (has not increased in 10 years)
Special ed Mental health: Include much-needed funding proposed by Governor & Dr. Evers
Rural schools: Keep proposed sparsity, high-cost transportation & broadband aid local control.
Democracy works! Trust local decisions & listen to the 80% of Wisconsin calling to restore funding to our public schools.
Transparency: No playing politics with kids! No last-minute measures or policy not subject to public review.
We CAN afford to invest in thriving communities!
GO PUBLIC!

Take time to build relationships




You are invited to Open Social & Pop Rally
SUPPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Monday, June 13
4-5pm at Starin Park
504 W Starin Road in Whitewater



Wisconsin school districts are on the verge of facing significant challenges that could adversely affect every child and community in the state. Here's our chance to show up, wearing our school colors, and support our community schools.

*Organized by Mary Sue Reschbach, a parent and advocate of Wisconsin Public Schools. Questions? email: mreschba@wpschools.com



Get involved



Be a **HUNGER HERO** for Sun Prairie students

WISCONSIN PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK

THIRD ANNUAL **SUMMER SUMMIT 2017**
AUGUST 9
LAKE MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

FEATURING the WISCONSIN PREMIERE of the ACCLAIMED NEW FEATURE-LENGTH FILM **BACKPACK FULL OF CASH**
NARRATED BY MATT DAMON

With special guests
DIRECTOR/PRODUCER **SARAH MONDALE**
and PRODUCER/EDITOR **VERA ARONOV**

Foundation for Madison Public Schools




Focus on what matters: children




Be an everyday ambassador for public schools!

Every election matters



From school board to referenda, state to national.

Focus on issues and values.

Speak up. We are the voice of our children. 

YOUR VOICE MATTERS
Let it be heard!

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY WORKSHOP

Stand up for our children & schools **FRI. JAN. 13 MILWAUKEE**

Local school of interest
Whitewater YES for Education petitions



The SNOWBALL effect
Courage is contagious

Portage administrators: State bump in school aid 'does nothing for our kids'

MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN JOURNAL SENTINEL
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker proposes \$649 million more for state schools

Jason Stein and Patrick Marley, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel 12:02 a.m. CT Feb. 5, 2017




School f

By Clint Benz
Posted: Apr 13

Ellsworth (W
Joint Commit

Gov. Scott Walker signs \$76B Wisconsin budget with money for schools, fees for hybrids

Patrick Marley, Jason Stein and Jen Zettel, Milwaukee Published 9:58 a.m. CT Sept. 21, 2017 | Updated 5:27 p.m. CT Sept. 21, 2017




Making an impact

Local action works



Thank you

WISCONSIN PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK 

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