



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Rep. David Bowen
(608) 266-7671

Statement from Rep. Bowen on Republican Education Proposal

MILWAUKEE – Rep. David Bowen (D-Milwaukee) issued a statement today in response to the devastating attacks on public education earlier this week by the Republican majority on the Joint Committee on Finance:

“The Republican overnight budget heist to steal more than \$1 billion of taxpayer money out of the public school system over the next decade and then hand it over to private voucher schools isn’t about fixing Wisconsin’s schools or increasing student achievement. It’s not about solving the funding flaw. It’s not about investing critical dollars in our lowest-resourced schools. It’s not about holding low performing voucher schools to the same standard. It’s about paying back the special interests who have dumped millions of dollars into electing Republicans. It’s not hard to make the connection when a major Republican donor and voucher supporter announces plans to open a \$40 million private school on the south side of Milwaukee the same week the Joint Finance Committee votes take over MPS schools with County Executive Abele.

If Republicans on the Joint Finance Committee really had Milwaukee students’ interests at heart, they wouldn’t have voted for Gov. Walker’s plan to phase out Chapter 220 integration aid program. For all they like to talk about school choice, ending Chapter 220 actually takes a choice away from families in segregated school districts like Milwaukee’s. We have a long way to go to close the achievement gap between the black and white students in Milwaukee, but this budget takes us in the wrong direction. We need the Chapter 220 program, we need to remove the MPS takeover language from the budget, and we need to support public education to create stability in our schools. Republicans in the Legislature just need to start putting our students ahead of special interests.”
