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## **Rep. Considine on Governor Evers' Continued Commitment to Education**

**Madison** – This week, Governor Evers announced an investment of \$90 million in Wisconsin's K-12 schools. This investment includes \$75 million for supplemental funding in per pupil aid to K-12 public schools, bringing the total aid to \$100 per pupil. The rest of the funding, \$15 million, is going toward school mental health funding via Governor Evers' "Get Kids Ahead" initiative. Representative Dave Considine (D-Baraboo) released the following statement on this investment:

"As students and teachers head back to school this week, we must ensure they have the tools needed to succeed. I appreciate Governor Evers continued commitment to our schools and our kids. Since Governor Evers took office and reinvested in education, our state's education system has moved up in national rankings ten spots, to now be in the top ten. This session, Governor Evers' proposed budget would have fully funded state education, setting up students for success. Unfortunately, legislative leaders rejected this investment, leaving schools in the red. In response to this, Governor Evers has continued to use funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to fill the gaps.

"Educators continually express the need for support as they face staffing challenges, increased costs due to national inflation, and the acute mental health needs of our kids. The pandemic has increased these challenges, paired with continued divestments in public education by Republican leaders in the state. Governor Evers' investment will make schools better off and allow students to thrive. This additional funding will have a great impact on small rural schools across the state.

"The focus on mental health is also key. As a member of both the Mental Health and Education committees, I frequently hear about the increase in prevalence of mental health issues in children, especially in the past couple of years. By funding school mental health, students will have better access to the help they need. Studies have shown that when student mental health improves, so does learning, attendance, and engagement.

"I will always fight to ensure our public schools get the resources they need. Adequate funding for our schools means a better future for our state, our rural communities, and our economy."

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