

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Rep. Rodriguez to Chair Speaker’s Task Force on Urban Education**

**MADISON** – State Representative Jessie Rodriguez (R-Franklin) is honored to be appointed the chair of the Speaker’s Task Force on Urban Education:

“Assembly Republicans are committed to helping schools in urban districts across the state. We agree that the challenges facing urban schools need to be addressed now,” said Rodriguez.

The Speaker’s Task Force on Urban Education was created to study issues pertaining to teacher recruitment and retention; best practices to address problems such as truancy, below average academic performance, and low graduation rates; ways to improve access to technology in high poverty urban communities; and review the “Opportunity Schools and Partnership Program” created in the 2015-17 budget.

“Assembly members also acknowledge that large urban districts have unique challenges and opportunities that deserve special attention from state legislators. Urban schools’ budgets are vastly different than those in our rural communities. I look forward to working with the members of the bipartisan task force to find real solutions for our largest districts in Wisconsin,” said Rodriguez.

Member of the Speaker’s Task Force on Urban Education: Rep. Jessie Rodriguez (R-Franklin), Chair, Rep. Sondy Pope (D-Cross Plains), Vice Chair, Rep. Mike Kuglitsch (R-New Berlin), Rep. Jeremy Thiesfeldt (R-Fond du Lac), Rep. Thomas Weatherston (R-Caledonia), Rep. Mary Czaja (R-Irma), Rep. Scott Allen (R-Waukesha), Rep. Dave Heaton (R-Wausau), Rep. John Macco (R-Ledgeview), Rep. Christine Sinicki (D-Milwaukee), Rep. Jill Billings (D-LaCrosse), Rep. Eric Genrich (D-Green Bay), Rep. David Bowen (D-Milwaukee).

The task force plans to meet in four of our largest urban areas, Milwaukee, Green Bay, Madison and Kenosha/Racine. The five largest districts alone represent 20% of Wisconsin’s total students and future workforce, and a majority of our state’s students are educated in urban areas.