

Proposed bill could help district start education foundation

A new bipartisan bill would make it easier for schools and libraries to partner with community foundations to manage gifts and donations.

That's good news for the Oshkosh school district, which is trying to start an education foundation under the auspices of the Oshkosh Community Foundation.

The bill – which is co-sponsored by Reps. Gordon Hintz, D-Oshkosh, and Dean Kaufert, R-Neenah – would update state statutes to allow community foundations to manage monetary gifts on behalf of school boards and libraries.

Current laws are unclear and have been interpreted differently by various levels of state and local government, Hintz said. “Basically, you had two different opinions on whether it was legal or not.”

The bill would make clear the practice is legal.

“I’ve got to believe it would be a great benefit for us (at the Oshkosh school district) if that language gets cleared up,” said Athletic Director Brad Jodarski, who is one of two district administrators charged

with starting the education foundation.

Jodarski and Assistant Director of Special Education Kim Brown were tasked last spring by the school board with finding new ways to generate revenue to avoid cutting staff and programs.

The district projects needing to cut as much as \$20 million in spending over the next five years.


“As we move forward, education will face a number of challenges. Districts that are finding ways to ensure great educational opportunities still exist in the future will be the ones that continue to do well,” Jodarski said.

Jodarski and Brown said they anticipate having the education foundation up and running in spring of 2012.

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