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STATE SENATOR

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LeMahieu Applauds Action to Protect K-12 Education *Joint Finance Committee Invests in K-12 Education, Protects Options for Students*

Madison – Today, Senator Devin LeMahieu (R-Oostburg) thanked the Joint Finance Committee for acting to protect and strengthen K-12 education. Among other actions, the Committee voted to increase K-12 education funding and protect educational options for families.

“Last night, the legislature put children first. I applaud the Joint Finance Committee for increasing funding for public K-12 education throughout the state,” Sen. LeMahieu stated. “Restoring this funding has been a priority of mine for months. By investing in K-12 education, we are investing in students and families throughout Wisconsin.”

“I’m also pleased my colleagues accepted my motion to protect the concurrent enrollment program,” continued LeMahieu. “We must provide educational options for our students as they explore educational and career opportunities. However, these options must not be an unfunded mandate on our local school districts. The motion today removed a well-intentioned, but duplicative and flawed program. In its place, students and families still have access to a variety of other options to meet their educational needs.”

In particular, LeMahieu pointed to three provisions in the K-12 education package passed today:

- **Invests in K-12 Education**: Increased funding for K-12 per pupil aid by over \$200 million. The committee restored the \$150/pupil funding that was cut by Governor Walker in the first year of his biennial budget. The committee also increased funding by an additional \$100/pupil in the 2nd year of the budget.
- **Protects Concurrent Enrollment**: The Committee voted to roll back the Course Options program, allowing the Concurrent Enrollment program to continue. Concurrent Enrollment allows high school students obtain college credit for courses taken in high school. With today’s motion students throughout the state will continue to have access to Concurrent Enrollment, Part-time Open Enrollment, Youth Options, and AP Courses.
- **Strengthens School Choice**: The Committee continued the statewide expansion of school choice, patterned off the open enrollment program. The Committee also addressed funding concerns raised by schools participating in the choice program and increased vouchers to \$7,200 for K-8 and \$7,800 for high school students.

Senator LeMahieu thanked Representatives Tyler Vorpagel (R-Plymouth) and Terry Katsma (R-Oostburg) for working with him to protect the concurrent enrollment program and Senator Tom Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst) and Representative Mary Czaja (R-Irma) for their leadership on the Joint Finance Committee.

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