



HOWARD MARKLEIN

STATE SENATOR • 17TH SENATE DISTRICT

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JFC Invests \$200 million More into K-12 Education

MADISON— State Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) announced the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) added \$200 million to K-12 public education funding during deliberations yesterday. The additional funding is part of more than \$10.6 billion invested into public education over the next biennium.

“Increasing the funding for K-12 education has been my top priority,” Marklein said. “I am proud of our investment in public schools and appreciate all of the input and communication I have received from school districts in the 17th Senate District. Their ideas, concerns and willingness to communicate has been extremely helpful throughout the budget process.”

The JFC restored funding for \$150 per pupil in the first year of the biennium and added an extra \$100 per pupil in the second year for a total of \$200 million in additional investment. Overall, \$10.6 billion of the state budget is dedicated to funding for public schools. This investment accounts for 63% of all school-related spending statewide.

In addition to general school investment increases, the JFC expanded the school choice program statewide to provide parents with choices and creates a program in which funding follows the child.

The statewide school choice program allows parents to apply to send their children to private schools under a statewide choice program. The total number of pupils who could participate in the program would be limited to no more than 1% of a school district’s prior year enrollment and the funding for each student in the school choice program will be drawn from the school district of residence. Funding for school choice will not be a burden to every school district in the state.

“Expansion of the school choice program is important in some parts of the state,” Marklein said. “In the 17th District, however, there has been limited interest and I made sure that any funding for this expansion would not negatively impact our rural schools. The expanded program draws funding from a student’s district of residence, not from statewide dollars.”

The Joint Finance Committee will continue to meet in Executive Session over the next several weeks to revise the Governor’s budget proposal before it is presented to the full legislature.

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