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Rep. Callahan Asks Governor Evers to Support In-Person Schools

[Madison, WI] – Rep. Calvin Callahan (R-Tomahawk) joined his legislative Republican colleagues this afternoon in sending a formal request to Governor Evers to provide additional funds to school districts that have been providing in-person instruction since the beginning of the school year. A joint letter was sent to the governor earlier this afternoon and press conferences were held around Wisconsin. In particular, \$20.8 million is being requested to be directed to schools with in-person learning from the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds.

“Our rural school districts don’t have the resources that larger districts, like Madison and Milwaukee do,” said Rep. Callahan, “yet, under the Title I formula in the latest round of funding from the governor, they were provided significantly less funding per pupil than the larger districts.”

Not only are districts like Madison and Milwaukee receiving a disproportionate amount of the federal funds, but they are also incurring significant utility and transportation savings by not having students in the classroom. According to a survey of districts, Madison and Milwaukee saved millions in the 2019-20 school year as a result of shutting down due to COVID-19.

“We need to be putting our kids first,” stated Rep. Callahan. “The CDC has already said it’s safe for our students to return to school, so we need to prioritize in-person instruction and help our school districts that have been providing this since the beginning of the school year.”

The \$20.8 million in additional Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds come from the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) of 2021. These dollars are in addition to the original \$46.6 million in GEER funds included in the CARES Act.

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The 35th Assembly District includes all of Lincoln County and portions of Langlade, Marathon, Oneida, and Shawano Counties.