



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**GARY HEBL**  
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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**Wisconsin's Future Is Directly Dependent On The Quality Of Public Education**  
*By Representative Gary Hebl*

Education is one of the cornerstones of our state and a priority of mine in the State Legislature. Recently, ACT college entrance exam results from across the nation were released and unfortunately, they did not contain encouraging results for our Wisconsin students.

The average score from Wisconsin's ACT test takers (juniors and seniors in high school) markedly declined from 22.2 in 2015 to 20.6 in 2016. That is now below the national average of 20.8. The decrease comes despite the fact that the number of students taking the test actually increased from 59% to 64% of high school graduates.

The issues start at the top. The Walker administration has spent nearly all of its time in power vilifying teachers and educators, and the toll that it has taken on Wisconsin's students is beginning to show. Beginning with the disastrous Act 10 in 2011, Wisconsin has seen a steady increase of teachers leaving the profession. The number of teachers in Wisconsin dropped by almost 1500 from 2010 to 2014. State Superintendent Tony Evers said that Wisconsin's teacher shortfall is on the brink of "being a disaster."

In his "State of Education" address, Superintendent Evers also warned of the disturbing trend of education funding. He said that the state risks "failing our obligation to all our kids" if we continue to neglect the necessary funding for our schools.

We have to make sure that our children's education remains a top priority. We have to make sure that our children have access to the best resources that we can find - teachers, textbooks, exam preparation, etc. - so that we can ensure that they are prepared for life after high school.

For too long now our state has not put the necessary investment into their futures. Our state and our country depend on our children.

*Rep. Gary Hebl represents the 46th Assembly District, which includes the cities of Sun Prairie and Stoughton, the village of Cottage Grove, and the townships of Cottage Grove, Dunkirk, Pleasant Springs, and Sun Prairie.*

*Contact Rep. Hebl with any questions or concerns you may have at (608) 266-7678 or via email at Rep.Hebl@legis.wi.gov.*

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