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VOUCHER SCHOOLS INCREASE PROPERTY TAXES FOR WISCONSIN FAMILIES

LFB memo shows \$145 million loss in school aid reductions to school districts due to voucher program

MADISON –A [memo](#) from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau shows that the statewide voucher program has resulted in gross general aid reductions of more than \$145 million in the 2019-20 school year. The cost of the Racine/Statewide program was up nearly 30% from the previous year. The statewide program cap expands enrollment by 1% each year, until 2026-27 when it is lifted completely. Assembly Democratic Leader Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh) released the following statement:

“Wisconsin families should be aware that their property taxes are going up to subsidize private voucher schools across the state. Our local school districts are already struggling to get by after years of Republican budget cuts and uncertainty,” Rep. Hintz stated. **“The statewide, private voucher school program stretches them even thinner, and puts more of a burden on local property taxpayers. This is about priorities, and Republicans continue prioritizing voucher school special interests over the reality on the ground in communities across Wisconsin. After looking at the data in this memo, it becomes clear that our state cannot sustain two school systems competing for the same pot of public dollars.”**

The Oshkosh Area School District experienced over \$2.4 million in gross reductions in state aid during the 2019-20 school year due to the private voucher program.

“A significant number of students were already attending a private school before enrolling in the voucher program. This means that some families who previously paid their own private tuition are now using taxpayer funding. I have never heard from a constituent who wants their property taxes to go up to pay for students to go to a school they’re already attending. While voucher school lobbyists reap the benefits of this system, Wisconsin families and school districts continue to lose out.”

“For the past two sessions, I have [co-authored legislation](#) that would require municipalities to detail on property tax bills how much money is going to support private schools that accept students on taxpayer-funded vouchers. At the very least, we need this transparency to ensure taxpayers truly understand the impact the voucher program is having on our public schools.”

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