



SONDY POPE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
80TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



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REP. POPE: STATE AID NUMBERS SHOW NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF VOUCHERS

MADISON – Today, Representative Sondy Pope (D-Mt. Horeb) responded to the [certified general state aid](#) amounts released by the Department of Public Instruction. The general state aid is distributed to districts from the state approved appropriation based on factors such as the district’s membership, taxable property and eligible expenditures. The release also shows general state aid deductions due to changes in how the state’s private school voucher programs are funded.

“Governor Walker and Republican leadership have shown time and again that they are willing to shortchange our neighborhood public schools in order to appease their pro-voucher donors,” said Rep. Pope. **“While changes to the funding formula led to an increase of \$122.3 million in aid, little if any of that will actually be able to be spent by those districts.”**

General aid deductions – totaling \$142.2 million will be used to pay for the Independent (2r) Charter Schools, the Milwaukee (MPCP), Racine (RPCP) and Wisconsin (WPCP) Parental Choice Programs, and the Special Needs Scholarship Program. These deductions would have otherwise gone directly to funding public schools and these losses will end up directly impacting Wisconsin property taxpayers and classrooms in 420 of the 422 districts statewide.

“What is most disturbing about these aid deductions is that these totals are just the first year of the formula funding vouchers. With the cap of voucher students in the WPCP growing at 1% per year and the cap to be lifted after ten years, we cannot view this as a sustainable path to adequately fund our public schools in the future.”

“Wisconsin must choose whether we are to continue our tradition of supporting our nationally recognized, strong public schools or continue to privatize and sell our children’s educations to the highest bidder,” Rep. Pope said. **“If we do not reverse course from this path soon, the damage may be irreparable.”**

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