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Olsen Appointed Co-Chair of School Finance Commission

Madison... Senator Luther Olsen (R-Ripon) announced today that he has been appointed to the Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding by Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau). This first of its kind commission is both bicameral and bipartisan and will look at the state's school finance system to determine if changes could be made to better meet the needs of today's students.

"I expect we will take a hard look at issues like declining enrollment, which is occurring in more than half the districts in the state, as well as how general school aid and categorical aid are distributed," Olsen explained. The commission will hold its first meeting this month, providing members with an in-depth briefing on the school finance system and how different funding mechanisms interact. The commission will then travel around the state to hear from families, schools and communities. They will report back with recommendations that could be considered in the 2019-2021 state budget.

The commission includes legislators and members of the public including a representative from CESA 6, two school superintendents, the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, two representatives from choice schools and a professor from UW-Madison. "I'm looking forward to working with the members of the commission. I've known some of them for many years and know them to be people with a strong knowledge of school finance and an understanding of the challenges we face," Senator Olsen said.

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